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PART 28.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

40

November and December 1905.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 28.

No. 1.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 258.)

My Lord, *Fez, October* 22, 1905.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship to-day by telegram that the Moorish Government had sent a favourable reply to the French Minister on the subject of the programme for the Conference, and had acceded to the suggestion that it should be held at Algeciras.

M. Saint-René Taillandier has been good enough to communicate to me a translation of the note he has received from the Moorish Government conveying this decision, and I have the honour to inclose it herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to M. Saint-René Taillandier.

(Traduction.) *Le* 23 *Chaaban*, 1323 (22 *Octobre*, 1905).

J'AI reçu votre lettre en date du 16 Octobre de l'année courante, à laquelle était annexée copie du programme renfermant les principes des Articles sur lesquels porteront les délibérations à la prochaine Conférence Internationale ; vous m'avez prié de les porter à la connaissance de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, conformément aux ordres que vous avez reçus à ce sujet de votre Gouvernement respecté ; vous avez exprimé l'espoir de voir Sa Majesté Chérifienne donner son adhésion à la réunion de la Conférence à Algéciras, puisque le Gouvernement Espagnol honoré a consenti à ce qu'elle fût réunie à l'endroit précité, &c.

J'ai porté votre lettre ainsi que le programme à la connaissance de Sa Majesté Chérifienne, qui m'a ordonné de vous répondre qu'elle a consenti à accepter que les délibérations portent sur les Articles du programme en question à la prochaine Conférence, s'il plaît à Dieu ; ensuite, après délibération entre les Délégués du Gouvernement Chérifien et les Délégués des Puissances amies sur le détail des Articles du programme—ce qui aura fait l'objet d'un accord entre tous les Délégués, après que Sa Majesté Chérifienne aura été consultée—il sera mis en exécution.

Sa Majesté Chérifienne a donné également son adhésion à la réunion de la Conférence à Algéciras, conformément à votre indication amicale.

(Signé) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

No. 2.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Count Metternich.[1]

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 28th ultimo, inclosing copy of the Franco-German Convention signed in Paris on the 28th September, and containing the programme of the Conference shortly to be summoned by the Sultan of Morocco.

In reply to your Excellency's inquiries, I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government are prepared to take part in the Conference, and that they concur in the proposal of the French and German Governments that the Conference should take place at Algeciras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

Your language to French Ambassador, as reported in your telegram No. 84 of the 2nd instant, is approved.

It is undesirable that the Conference should be indefinitely postponed.

No. 4.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 259. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 24, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 258 of the 22nd instant, the following information has reached me regarding the manner in which the programme agreed upon by the French and German Governments was received by the Sultan and his advisers:—

When the text was first communicated to the Makhzen, unofficially, on the 10th instant, His Shereefian Majesty seems to have been plunged into deep depression and ill-humour for some days, until the receipt of the official notes containing the programme addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the French and German Ministers. His Majesty apparently only then realized that any alteration of the programme was almost impossible, and His Majesty's ill-humour seems to have given place to a more violent attitude—indeed, so violent that his Minister for Foreign Affairs was compelled to feign illness for two days in order to avoid approaching His Majesty. The German Minister was interviewed daily by the Moorish Ministers, and repeated suggestions were made to his Excellency to bring about some modification in the programme, more especially in those Articles which are distinctly opposed to the personal interests of those members of the Makhzen who thrive upon the present financial system of the Government, such as the engagement by the Makhzen not to pledge any of the public services for the benefit of private interests and the creation of the State bank.

Eventually the Minister for Foreign Affairs was instructed to send for the German Minister, and make a final appeal to him to use his influence to obtain some modification. Count Tattenbach, however, told his Excellency very distinctly that his Government would listen to no such proposals, and that he could not put them forward, but that His Majesty could rely upon German support at the Conference to obtain some valuable alterations. His Majesty then decided to cause the reply to be sent which I inclosed in my despatch No. 258 of the 22nd instant.

I have no doubt that M. Saint-René Taillandier's intimation of his decision to leave Fez on a definite day, when he communicated the programme, must have practically

No. 1*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, November* 2, 1905.

MOROCCAN affairs.

Proposed Conference.

I learn from M. Cambon that Spanish Premier inquired of him yesterday who would issue the invitations for the Conference and for what date. French Ambassador said that the Sultan was, he believed, expected to propose a date and issue the invitations. The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that he feared some delay would be caused by this procedure.

I pointed out to M. Cambon that, as rooms had been engaged at Algeciras from the 1st December, considerations of expense would seem to render prudent as early a meeting of the Conference as possible, and that the delay might be very long if the question of date were left in the Sultan's hands.

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convinced the Sultan that there was but a faint hope of obtaining a modification of the programme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 5.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 4.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 26, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Wyldbore Smith's despatch, Separate, of the 9th instant, in which he reported the murder of Sid Abdeslam Saidi, Kaïd at the Moorish lines near Ceuta, and his son, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that one of the first acts of Valiente, on obtaining his release, was to kill Uld Sheraiah, the murderer of Sid Saidi, and three of his followers.

It appears that it had been suggested to Valiente at the time of his release that he should arrest Uld Sheraiah and the two men implicated with him in the murder, and send them prisoners to Tangier or Tetuan. This Valiente was quite willing to undertake, as there had been enmity between them before. Accordingly, when Uld Sheraiah, with his two accomplices in the murder and another follower, called upon Valiente to congratulate him on his release, the latter invited him into his house to partake of a meal. They entered, leaving their rifles at the door, and shortly after men appeared with cords to bind them; they thereupon drew their daggers to defend themselves, and were at once all shot down in the room.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 6.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 4.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 28, 1905.

IN continuation of my despatch, Separate, of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the report of Commander Hickley, of His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder," describing the negotiations with the brigands, through Moulai Hamed, of Wazan, when the liberation of the marine officers was effected, also copy of Captain Crowther's report of the proceedings before and after his capture. The Vice-Admiral Commander-in-chief has been good enough to communicate these reports to me.

I am informed by the Spanish Minister that he has heard from the Governor of Ceuta that the three horses lent by his Excellency to the rescue party have been sent back to Ceuta by the brigands, as promised to Captain Crowther.

Upon receiving Vice-Admiral Sir William May's former letter, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch of the 22nd instant, I called upon Sid Torres and inquired whether any communication had reached him from the Governor of Tetuan in regard to the conduct of the soldiers he had sent to escort Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton to Ceuta. Sid Torres handed to me a letter which he had received from that official, translation of which I beg leave to transmit herewith.

In this letter it is stated that it was at the express wish of the British officers that no resistance was offered by the escort to the brigands. I accordingly forwarded a translation thereof to the Admiral, requesting him to communicate to me any observations Captain Crowther might make thereon.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a supplementary report by Captain Crowther in regard to this point, and also in regard to a demand for money said to have been made by a Moorish Government soldier when the rescue party first entered Moorish territory on leaving Ceuta, to which Surgeon Hingston had referred in his report to the Admiral.

From Captain Crowther's report it appears that this latter incident was of no importance, but it is clear that the escort took no steps whatever to protect the British officers; it is even possible that some of their number were actually in

collusion with the brigands. I understand that many of them belong to the Anghera tribe, and Captain Crowther was told that two of their number remained with Valiente.

The Governor of Tetuan also cannot be held free from blame for not providing a more efficient escort, acquainted as he is with the present state of affairs in the Anghera.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Extract from Commander Hickley's Report.

I EMBARKED the holy Shereef at 9·45 A.M. the following morning, the 22nd October, having previously landed all other officials, Consular or otherwise, and took him round to Castillejos, where Valiente (2) and his band (about forty in number) were waiting.

The holy man guaranteed me safe conduct on shore, so I went with him, together with my staff paymaster and my steward, to have a consultation with Valiente (2). I may remark here that the reception of the holy man was the most extraordinary thing I have ever seen. The whole band ran and grovelled round him, kissing the tail of his coat, his boots, and any part of him they could get at.

Valiente (2) then spread a rug on the sands, on which he, the holy man, and myself sat and talked for about an hour and a-quarter.

The brigand started by stipulating for 200,000 dollars; this, of course, I absolutely refused. After half-an-hour's talk he came down to 100,000 dollars, and this I also refused even to consider.

He then remarked in an aside that if I could drop his brother quietly overboard and drown him he would give up our officers without an exchange at all. I may remark here that the brigand I have had on board is the Chief of the tribe, and consequently Valiente (2) was not a bit anxious to be superseded, and has only taken these proceedings under the pressure of opinion of his tribe. Valiente (1), whom I had on board, also expressed his intention, as soon as he got in command of his tribe again, of cutting out his brother's tongue as the first thing he would do, so there seems to be every prospect of fraternal dissension.

After I had refused all money the holy man asked what I wanted; I referred this back to Valiente (2), and after considerable talk with his Headman, he said if I would not give any dollars, would I give ten rifles and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. This I agreed to, and signalled off to the ship to send this ransom and the five prisoners, and Valiente (2) sent up for the marine officers. I made my boats lay off until the officers appeared, and then got them into a whaler at the same time as the prisoners and ransom were being landed.

As a minor aside to the matter, I think it may be of interest to state the condition of the prisoners. Valiente (1) was a most genial ruffian, and appeared none the worse for his five months' imprisonment, except for the marks of his irons about his legs; he has given some of the officers an open invitation to come and stay with him and have some shooting, an invitation which none of my officers appear particularly keen about accepting.

The other four prisoners appeared almost imbeciles, two could hardly walk, their legs being so swollen by fetters, and all, including Valiente (1), were filthily verminous. I kept them all together in the torpedo workshop. I may mention what struck me as a curious point was that Valiente (1), when delivered into my hands, had a large sort of bag practically full of dollars and various coins of sorts. I tried to find out how he got away from prison with them, but he would not say anything about this.

(Signed) SPENCER A. HICKLEY.

Gibraltar, October 23, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Captain Crowther to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Chichester.

Sir, *His Majesty's Dockyard, Gibraltar, October* 26, 1905.

IN compliance with verbal orders received from the Commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, I have the honour to submit the following report, giving an account of

the march of the naval party from Ceuta to Cape Negro, the return journey, our capture by the Moor Valiente, and subsequent release.

On Saturday, 14th October, at 5·10 A.M., Lieutenant Peck, R.N., of His Majesty's ship "Victorious," Surgeon Hingston, R.N., of His Majesty's ship "King Edward VII." and myself, with a party of blue-jackets and six garrison artillerymen, left Gibraltar in the tug "Rescue" for Ceuta, where we arrived shortly after 7 o'clock.

On landing at the mole we were received by a Colonel on the staff of his Excellency the Governor of Ceuta, the Captain of the Port, and another officer. These officers offered us every assistance in their power, and it was owing to their courtesy and great kindness that we were enabled to hire fifteen mules for the transport of the life-saving apparatus and other gear at the comparatively low price of 14 pesetas a-day, inclusive of the service of the accompanying muleteers.

The muleteer in charge, whose real name is Ildefonso Gomez, but who is generally known by the name of "Rubio," stipulated, before starting, that if any of his animals were captured by the brigand Valiente the loss should be made good, and that he should not be left to return to Ceuta alone, but that two of us should accompany him as a guarantee for his safety. This was readily agreed to.

As the road from Ceuta to Tetuan was reported to be too narrow and rough for wheeled traffic, it was decided to leave the two carts which had been brought to convey the life-saving apparatus behind in charge of the Spanish authorities, and pack all the gear on the mules' backs. This was according effected. While this operation was in progress a Chief of Police arrived, and stated that he had been sent to assist us in any way he could, and that if there was anything we further required we had only to express the fact and every effort would be made to supply us. We requested that, as all the fifteen mules were now required for transport duty, we might be provided with three saddle horses.

In response to this request his Excellency the Governor most courteously sent down three horses from the military stables.

Shortly after 9 A.M. the loading of the mules was completed, and the march began. The mules were small and of a very inferior quality.

On arriving at the Spanish frontier guard-house we were stopped by the soldiers on guard. I explained to the officer in command that we had the Governor of Ceuta's permission to proceed, but he insisted that we must stop until he had telephoned for orders. Apparently he did so, for after a slight delay we were allowed to proceed.

After we had proceeded about a quarter of a mile, an officer on horseback galloped up and peremptorily forbade us to go on, ordering us to return at once. I explained matters to him, and intimated that the nature of our duty did not admit of delay, but he refused to be convinced, so I reminded him that we were then on Moorish territory, and accordingly out of his jurisdiction. He then turned and galloped back to Ceuta. At 1·25 P.M., when at about half-way to our destination, we were stopped by a small armed party of Moors on the beach as we were on the point of halting to rest the mules. The Moor in command, a tall soldierly-looking man, Ben Zarbi by name, addressed me in Spanish, asking us to halt and await the arrival of Valiente, who, he said, was perfectly aware of our departure from Ceuta. He informed me that Valiente had a brother a prisoner at Tangier, and wished us to solicit the influence of England to cause him to be released.

I replied that I would bring the matter to the notice of the Commander-in-chief at Gibraltar. He then said that Valiente would assist us in any way he could, and that nothing that might be washed up from the stranded ship would be stolen by any Moor.

At 2·30 P.M., as there was no sign of Valiente appearing, we suggested that we we should be allowed to proceed. This Ben Zarbi at first objected to, but finally consented to the mules going forward with Surgeon Hingston, while Lieutenant Peck and myself remained behind. At 2·50, there still being no sign of Valiente, we insisted on leaving, and, no active opposition being offered, did so, and in a few minutes overtook the rest of the party. At 4 o'clock we arrived at a well with a drinking-trough, where there was good water to be had. A halt of a few minutes was made here to water the animals.

At 6·30 P.M. we reached a collection of abandoned straw-thatched huts, in a line with, and east of, Cape Negro. It was then dark, and Rubio absolutely refused to go on any further that night, as to reach the "Assistance" it would be necessary to strike straight across country, that the ground was very rough, intersected by steep gullies, and

that in the darkness the mules would run the risk of breaking their legs, &c. Tents were accordingly pitched, sentry posted, and animals hobbled.

At 4·30 A.M. on the 15th October tents were struck and the packing of the mules commenced.

At 5·30 A.M. we started from the camp and marched due east across country. It was then seen that the muleteer had not deceived us.

At 7·10 we arrived on the beach in front of the "Assistance," and Lieutenant Peck and myself proceeded to the "Victorious" to report our arrival.

I have omitted to mention that Rubio left us the night before, *i.e.*, on our arrival at the collection of thatched huts, in order to go on to Tetuan to buy fodder for his mules and our horses. He promised to be back on the beach at 11 AM. on the following morning.

Later on in the morning the Flag-Captain of the "Victorious" requested me to accompany the Surgeon of the "Assistance" ashore to ask the Moors if there were any wells with good drinking water in the neighbourhood. On landing, I was informed by the Moors on the beach that the Governor of Tetuan had just arrived with his suite. As the only means of communicating with him was by Spanish, I was requested by the Moors to receive him. I found him surrounded by prominent Moorish officials, all eagerly kissing his hands.

On being presented to him he shook me warmly by the hand, and told me, through one of his officers, who spoke Spanish, that he had hurried over from Tetuan to offer us every assistance in his power. I thanked him for his kindness, and said that I would report all he said to the Commander-in-chief on my arrival in Gibraltar, who I was sure would be grateful to him for his offers of assistance and his courtesy in coming all the way from Tetuan in a heavy rain-storm to proffer us his aid. He appeared to be very gratified. Two Moors were then sent to show us the nearest well, which, however, was situated at a considerable distance, and contained but little water, and that little was brackish. It had poured with rain all the morning, and, by order of the Rear-Admiral, I did not set out on the return journey that day. The mules and horses were therefore picketed on shore.

On Monday, 16th October, I left the "Victorious" with Lieutenant Hatton, R.M.L.I., and on landing I was informed by a Moorish official that the Governor of Tetuan had sent an escort of twenty men, commanded by a Captain, to accompany me back to Ceuta. I replied that I was extremely grateful for the attention, but that I did not require an escort, and would prefer not to have one. He urged me to take the men, saying it was the express wish of the Governor, and that they would incur his severe displeasure if they failed to accompany me. Upon this I consented to take them. The Captain, who was mounted (Valiente now rides this horse), and armed with a Mauser rifle, drew his men up in line and presented arms to us. The men were all dressed differently, wore no sort of uniform, and were utterly undisciplined. Four of them had old Martini-Henrys, the rest Mausers. The Captain led the way, and his men followed as they listed, no sort of military formation being adopted. The mules followed in the rear in single file, Lieutenant Hatton and myself riding at their head, immediately in rear of the Captain of the escort.

At 9·20 we arrived at an old Moorish square tower, partly in ruins, situated on the edge of the cliff, about 30 feet above the beach. Several Moors were squatting on the ground at the foot of the wall, and one was on the top of the tower. They paid little attention to us. The mules and horses were given water from a well here, and at 9·30 A.M. we were on the road again. At 10·35 we were at the well where we watered the horses on our way to the "Assistance."

At noon we came down to the beach and passed the spot where we had previously been stopped by Valiente's man. No Moors were to be seen.

At 2 P.M. we were following a narrow track between the edge of the cliff and a steep hill on the opposite hand, within a mile or two of the Spanish frontier forts.

The track then descended steeply down to a gully running inland from the beach, and rose again as steeply on the further side. The escort were a few paces in front of me.

At this moment shouts were heard, and Valiente and a party of men appeared on the opposite side of the gully and levelled their rifles at us. The escort dropped their arms, offering no resistance. Lieutenant Hatton's horse was seized by two Moors, who held their rifles at his head.

Valiente then called out to me in Spanish that if any resistance were offered or we attempted to escape he would fire, but if no resistance were offered he would treat us

well, and that all he wanted was the release of his brother, and that if I would write to the English authorities asking for his release it would doubtless be effected, and that the moment this was done we should be free to return to Gibraltar.

From observation then and from subsequent conversation with Valiente, I am of opinion that at the moment he captured us he had six or eight men with him armed with Mausers, but others were stationed on the high ground commanding the track, and others, again, had been posted in our rear to bar the way in case we had attempted to turn back.

Valiente allowed the mules to proceed to Ceuta, but took Lieutenant Hatton, myself, Rubio, the muleteer, and the escort back to Castillejo (a ruin close to the beach) by the same road we had come by, whence we struck inland in a westerly direction, following a track on the north-east side of a dry river bed. We were allowed to ride our horses, but Valiente took the horse belonging to the Captain of the escort and mounted it himself. We followed the track up a valley amidst the hills for half-an-hour, until we arrived at a village of small thatched huts built on the slope of a lofty range of hills. In front of the village in a deep bed with steep banks flows a small stream hurrying down from the direction of Gibelmusa; beyond is another range of hills

Conspicuous among the collection of thatched-roofed huts were two white stone flat-roofed single-storeyed houses; to one of these we were conducted, and found it had already been prepared for us. A few thin Moorish mats covered the floor, and one long narrow mattress was placed against the wall. The house consisted of this one room only. The outside dimensions were 12 feet by 6¼ feet.

The walls were 1 ft. 6 in. thick. There was one iron-barred window which could be closed by thick wooden shutters; it had no glass. On the opposite side of the door was a deep narrow port-hole. At one end of the room was a sort of bunk concealed by a curtain; at the other, also screened off, were sacks of barley piled up to the roof.

Valiente allowed me to write letters to the Admiral Superintendent at Gibraltar, and also to his Excellency the Governor of Ceuta. The muleteer Rubio was dispatched with these letters and told to return. He did not return—by order of his Excellency the Governor of Ceuta, as I subsequently learnt.

Valiente then examined our bags, and took over from me all the money I carried, viz., 29 sovereigns of Government money and a few shillings of my own. He informed me that he would restore the money as soon as his brother was released, and then he locked it up in a drawer in a chest in the bottom of his bunk. I may here mention that I believe that Valiente really meant what he said at the time, and that had he not been subsequently influenced by others of his clan he would have kept this promise.

At 9 P.M. Valiente, who had been out evidently to post his sentries, returned, locked the door, and climbed up into his bunk behind the curtain, which he always kept drawn. He never changed his clothes at night. His Mauser rifle and himself never parted company.

On Tuesday morning, 17th October, Valiente took us, escorted by two armed Moors, for a ride down to the beach at Castillejo, where there are a couple of fishermen's huts. Their boats were all up on the beach. Valiente had a long talk with these fishermen, took some fish from them for our dinner, and then returned with us to the village. Valiente allowed us to walk about the village freely. We were closely watched, but never in the slightest degree molested. Sentries were posted night and day on each of the dominant hills inclosing the valley.

On Wednesday, 18th October, Valiente having first sent out a patrol of about a dozen armed men, took us for a ride up the range of hills at the back of the village. Valiente rode in front, and an armed Moor rode behind us. When the summit of the hill was reached we looked straight down upon Ceuta.

On Thursday, 19th October, we went for a short ride with Valiente, and on our return we proposed races up and down in front of the village. He was very fond of showing off his horsemanship before his men and his womankind, firing his rifle at the gallop to the imminent danger of the villagers. He is, however, neither a good rider nor a good shot.

He missed badly firing at a stone at a range of about 200 yards, and was rather astonished when we hit it at our first shots. From this time he took us no more rides and proposed no more shooting. He was fond of borrowing a pair of my uniform leggings and parading them before his people.

As he wore them on his bare legs, the hard leather rubbed his skin, causing a nasty sore. Valiente did not like the leggings so much after that.

On Friday, 20th October, at 10·30 A.M., the Moor Ben Zarbi, previously mentioned, came into our room and informed us that Valiente wished us to keep out of sight and remain in the house, as some Moorish officials had arrived from Tangier and were in close consultation with Valiente in his other house, and he did not wish them to see us until the interview was finished. Later on these officials entered our room with Valiente, and after preliminary polite speeches we all sat down Moorish fashion on the floor. One of these officials was the Secretary to the Governor of Tangier, the other the Captain of the Port of Tangier. They spoke Spanish and informed me that the terms of our release were arranged, and that Valiente's brother would be brought from Tangier early on the morrow in a Moorish steamer, and that immediately on his arrival we would be released. The Secretary then handed me a letter from our Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier saying that he was treating with the Governor of the Anghera tribe for an unconditional release, but if that failed would I let him know what terms Valiente proposed. During this conversation Valiente looked very sullen, and leaning over seized the letter out of Lieutenant Hatton's hands, to whom I had passed it, and placed it in his bag.

Shortly after the Moorish officials left. In the afternoon Valiente complained of feeling ill. He had a bad cold in his head and could not sleep at night.

Saturday, 21st October, the Moors in the village tell us that Valiente's brother is expected to arrive at Castillejo at 11·30 A.M. At 3·45 P.M. a mounted messenger came up, and shortly afterwards Valiente left with a strong escort.

Before going, he informed me that he considered the Moorish officials who had arrived the day before bad liars, and if they showed the least sign of treachery he would shoot them on the spot. Valiente's brother and his wives dressed themselves in their best, evidently in honour of the imprisoned bandit. At 6·15 P.M. Valiente returned with his men in a very bad temper, and informed me that his brother had not come, and that the Moorish officials had deceived him. He was very worried, and complained of pains in his head. At 9 P.M. his mother entered our room and put a cloth over the bandit's head, and then clapped a hot earthenware pot tightly on the top, which apparently caused the sufferer great pain, for he groaned for hours. I have omitted to mention that during the day one of the Moors, whom we had employed as a courier, told me that Valiente had sent the letter he took from me into Ceuta to get it translated into Arabic.

Sunday, 22nd October, Valiente rose early in the morning. His mother brought him a circular mat, placing it on the stone step just outside the house. Valiente knelt down on it and said his prayers. From time to time he rose, repeating aloud passages, apparently from the Koran; then he would kneel again, bowing his head to the ground. He prayed thus for about ten minutes, facing the east. He then sat down and had a long conversation with an old man who had recently come to the village, and who, it appears, is a relation of Valiente. They spoke in Arabic, but from his gestures and the few words I was able to make out the old man was relating to Valiente the terms of Perdicaris' release, and urging him to increase his demands. Later in the morning Valiente entered our room with the old man, and told me I must write a letter to the Captain of the "Pathfinder" to say that he, Valiente, would have nothing more to do with the Moorish officials previously mentioned, as they were liars, that the only person he would treat with was the Shereef of Wazan, in whom he had the most perfect confidence, and that unless the Shereef was forthwith produced he would break off all further negotiations and keep us prisoners indefinitely. I accordingly wrote as requested, but, being informed at the last minute that there was no British man-of-war off Castillejo, I addressed the envelope to the Commander-in-chief at Gibraltar, and sent it by a courier to Ceuta with instructions to have the substance of it telegraphed to the Commander-in-chief, Atlantic fleet. Owing, however, to the prompt action of the Officer Commanding the "Pathfinder," this letter turned out to be superfluous.

After Valiente left the house I was informed by my Moorish courier that numerous letters had come in, all urging Valiente to obtain the release of various other prisoners—relations of the writers—and advising our retention until all demands had been acceded to, and that Valiente was making preparations for taking us six days' journey away up the hills.

After lunch we heard a little excitement outside, and the next moment in came a richly-dressed Moorish gentleman of quite a different stamp from any we had yet met, and informed me that he had come to release us; that the Shereef of Wazan was down on the beach, and that all was arranged; that he had spoken "muy fuerte" to Valiente, and had worked hard on our behalf; and that he would not leave the village unless he succeeded in taking us with him. He then left for the beach to make some final

arrangements together with Valiente, who at the last peremptorily ordered me to take off my uniform leggings and give them to him. I, however, refused to do so. About 4·30 the Moorish gentleman, Dris-ben-Abdullah—he gave me his card—reappeared and told us we could mount our horses and ride down with him. Shortly after we arrived down on the beach and were received by the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder." The Shereef of Wazan most kindly arranged that the Spanish horses should be taken back to Ceuta in safety. I fear, however, they will return in bad condition.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I have omitted all mention of military details concerning the roads and approaches, as I propose to embody them in a separate Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. CROWTHER, *Captain, R.M.L.I.,*
Naval Intelligence Officer.

The Commander-in-chief,
Submitted.

In forwarding Captain Crowther's very interesting account of his proceedings, I think a tribute is due to this officer for his tact and general judicious behaviour under unusual circumstances, and I think he was justified in allowing himself to be captured without resistance, viewing the facts detailed by him.

(Signed) E. CHICHESTER,
Admiral Superintendent.

October 25, 1905.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Governor of Tetuan to Sid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 20 *Shaaban*, 1322 (*October* 20, 1905).

AFTER we informed your Excellency that Ben-el-Aish had stopped the soldiers who accompanied the Christians, and had taken the two Christians away from them, keeping the soldiers prisoners on the Ceuta lines, these soldiers returned and reported that when they arrived near the lines they were stopped by Ben-el-Aish and his followers, men of evil repute. The two Christians were taken away from them after that they had threatened them that if they attempted to help them in any way they would first kill the Christians and afterwards attack them (the soldiers), and that the Christians begged the soldiers to do nothing, fearing lest it should result in their being killed, so that the soldiers could only do that from which no harm would arise. Then they took them all to their village, and removed their arms, and took the Kaïd's rifle and horse, and let them go away, with the exception of the Christians, who are still with him. The soldiers also informed me that there was no truth in the report that had reached me, and which I communicated to you, to the effect that Ben-el-Aish had at first sent people to accompany the Christians to the Houz district, and he was not there at that time, and he reprimanded and arrested those who accompanied the Christians on the first occasion, and was inclined to kill them, but the people begged them off. And if the true facts had been known to me from the beginning, we would not have trusted either him or his people; but the matter is in the hands of God—what He wishes, that He does.

(Signed) KADDOR-BEN-GGAZI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

Captain Crowther to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Chichester.

Sir, *His Majesty's Dockyard, Gibraltar, October* 26, 1905.

WITH reference to Memorandum No. 579 of the Commander-in-chief, requesting certain details in connection with the capture of Lieutenant Hatton and myself, I have the honour to report as follows:—

Shortly after leaving the Spanish frontier, a Moor approached us and asked for

alms. I gave him a small Spanish coin and some cents—I cannot now remember the exact amount, but am almost certain it did not exceed 1 peseta. I believe one of the Spanish muleteers said he was a Moorish soldier, but I believe he was mistaken. I consider it extremely improbable that there should have been a Moorish soldier in the service of the Government all alone so near Valiente's head-quarters. The fact that he carried a rifle is devoid of any special significance, as all Moors we met, of all kinds, were invariably armed. I regret that I cannot now recall how the man was dressed. I attached no importance to the matter at the time.

As regards the man who first stopped us with an armed party, I am able to supply more definite information. I have already mentioned him in my report to the Admiral Superintendent and Commander-in-chief, from which it will be seen that this man is one of Valiente's most trusted soldiers. I am quite certain that he was not dressed in the same costume as the Moor who solicited arms. He had a brown jillaba, a white tunic, and a white turban. I got to know him very well subsequently, as he spoke Spanish better than any of the others. He is a fine, tall, rather striking-looking man, Ben Zarbi by name, and, I was informed, was always sent by Valiente on any special duty. He was always most friendly and courteous to us.

As regards our actual capture, the statement made by the escort to the effect that they were requested by us to make no resistance is, of course, a pure invention. As stated in my report already submitted, the escort, the moment they were challenged by Valiente, dropped their arms and made no resistance. Rubio, the muleteer, who was in great trepidation, I believe as much for his mules as for his own personal safety, remarked bitterly to me something to the effect of our having twenty men all afraid to fire.

My Moorish courier told me, subsequent to our release, that the soldiers had orders from the Governor of Tetuan not to fire in case they met Valiente, because if they opened fire Valiente would immediately shoot the English officers, and that if they were killed England would declare war against Morocco. In reply to further questions he informed me that the men who composed the escort were undoubtedly soldiers of the Governor of Tetuan (I had suspected they might have been Valiente's men), but that they scarcely knew how to shoot. He further said that two of the men had refused to return to Tetuan, and had joined Valiente's band. I cannot, of course, vouch for the truth of these statements, but I am inclined to believe them, as I thought I recognized one day in the village one of our escort who was going about quite free and armed as the others. Valiente undoubtedly inspires great fear throughout the whole country, roughly speaking, from Tangier to Tetuan. He told me that nobody could shoot him, as he had something on him which would turn any bullet; I thought at first he meant a shirt of mail, but I believe now it is a charm. No doubt he gives this out, and trades considerably on the effect it produces.

One other point that I omitted to mention in my previous report is that when Ben Zarbi met us he sent to tell Valiente, but the bandit had just left the village to accompany the Shereef of Wazan on his return to Tangier, the Shereef having been spending the day as the guest of Valiente. This fact was confirmed to me by the Shereef himself, who told me he had been staying in the village on the day we set out from Ceuta. Valiente knew we would probably return by the same way we had come, so concerted measures accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. CROWTHER, *Captain, R.M.L.I.,*
Naval Intelligence Officer

No. 7.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 8.)

(No. 260.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 243 of the 15th ultimo, my telegram of the 3rd instant, and your Lordship's reply of the 10th, authorizing me to arrange the matter of the punishment to be awarded to the perpetrators of the murder of Mr. Madden on the lines proposed by the Moorish Government, I have the honour to report that I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 22nd instant.

I explained to his Excellency that although, owing to the brutality of the murder and to the fact that there were no extenuating circumstances connected with it, the murderers should properly have suffered the last penalty of the law, yet that His Majesty's Government had duly weighed the considerations put forward by his Excellency, and, being desirous of avoiding the pressing of any demand that might embarrass the Moorish Government, had decided only to require that all the prisoners should be condemned to certain terms of imprisonment, it being understood that His Shereefian Majesty at the same time offered to the widow of the victim a grant of 2,000*l.*

I then read to his Excellency the draft of my note which I proposed to address to his Excellency on the subject, in order to avoid any further communication on the subject, and I added that, in view of the generous attitude adopted by His Majesty's Government on this question, I trusted that there would be no delay in receiving his reply.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my note and of Ben Sliman's answer.

His Excellency was desirous of introducing into the notes some engagement regarding the punishment to be awarded to the instigator of the crime. This, however, I declined to do, arguing that, although the alleged instigator of the crime was now in prison, I could not regard him as guilty until he had been proved to be so, and further delay was undesirable by their law. As his Excellency seemed to fear that His Majesty's Government might possibly demand the suspected man's execution, I took upon myself to state my conviction that His Majesty's Government would not demand a more severe punishment for this man than they had for the actual perpetrator of the crime.

I warned his Excellency that the Moorish Government had assumed a grave responsibility in asking that there should be no execution, for the friends of the criminals might adopt the plan, which was gradually becoming a custom, of capturing a Christian and then demanding the release of these prisoners.

His Excellency assured me that everything would be done to avoid such a calamity, and promised that they should be confined in a strong prison, away from Mazagan.

I to-day had a private audience of the Sultan, and I thanked His Majesty for his kindness in making the compassionate grant in favour of Mrs. Madden, an act which I was sure would be appreciated by His Majesty's Government, and would relieve the widow of much suffering.

His Majesty expressed his appreciation of the considerate manner in which this matter had been treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Mr. Lowther to Ben Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Fez, October* 21, 1905.

THE inquiry into the murder of the British subject Madden on the 6th June at Mazagan has for a long time past engaged the attention of the Moorish officials and the British Consular officers of that district, and, as your Excellency is aware, the guilt of the five following men has been eventually proved beyond doubt:—

1. Boafee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie.
2. Hamed-ben-Bwee.
3. Mesod-bel-Embark-bel-Maischie.
4. M'hamed Wold Mesod-bel-Larbie.
5. Boushaib-ben-Mohamed-ben-Naami.

All of these men have confessed, and four have formally pleaded guilty, and their guilt has been established in accordance with Moorish law.

It is unnecessary for me to dwell on the history of this painful case. Suffice it to say that the murder was of the most brutal kind, and carried out without the slightest provocation on the part of the victim, who was a feeble and defenceless old man, nor did revenge play any part in the conception of the murder. The crime was committed with the object of securing from the instigator a trifling money reward, and was carried out in the most brutal and merciless manner.

Were the perpetrators of the deed to meet with the fate they deserve they should all suffer the last penalty of the law, for there are no extenuating circumstances or reasons for any clemency to be shown to them.

But His Majesty's Government is not disposed to invite the Moorish Government

to carry out so severe and comprehensive a punishment. They are, however, of opinion that the following should be the punishment to be allotted to the various criminals:—

The ringleader Boofee-ben-M'hamed-bel-Larbie and Mesod Wold Embark-bel-Maischie, whose criminal record is a very bad one, both to be imprisoned for life elsewhere than in Mazagan. Hamed-ben-Bwee and M'hamed Wold Mesod to be imprisoned for ten years elsewhere than in Mazagan.

Boushaib-ben-Naami, who is only a youth, to be punished with two years' imprisonment elsewhere than in Mazagan.

These would seem to be fair and just punishments to award to the criminals in question, and it is to be hoped that they may be of sufficient severity to act as a preventative against the commission of such brutal acts in the future.

Should the person now under suspicion of being the instigator be found guilty, his case will be dealt with separately.

It is with much satisfaction that I have received a verbal communication from your Excellency to the effect that His Shereefian Majesty has been graciously pleased to award to the widow of the victim, as a voluntary gratuity, the sum of 2,000*l.*, and I am convinced that His Majesty's Government will duly appreciate this spontaneous act of generosity on the part of His Majesty.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Ben Sliman to Mr. Lowther.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 25 *Shaaban*, 1323 (*October* 24, 1905).

I RECEIVED your letter dated the 22nd instant relative to the case of the British subject Madden who was murdered at Mazagan, and to the difficulties experienced in bringing home the guilt [to the criminals], also you give the decision arrived at in the case, with many regrets at the crime having occurred. The decision is to the effect that your exalted Government will not invite the Moorish Government to carry out the severest punishment against the criminals, but that they have decided that they be punished in a manner which the present state of the country renders necessary, that is to say, that Boafee-ben-M'hamed-ben-Larbie and Mesod-ben-Embark-al-Maashi be both imprisoned for life, and Hamed-ben-Bwee and Mohammed-ben-Mesod undergo ten years imprisonment each, and Boushaib-ben-el-Naami two years' imprisonment, and that they be imprisoned elsewhere than at Mazagan, and should the person suspected of being the instigator be found guilty his case is to be dealt with separately.

I note that you received with much satisfaction the verbal communication that His Shereefian Majesty had voluntarily bestowed as a compassionate grant to the widow of the murdered man a sum of 2,000*l.*

I took note of all the above and informed His Shereefian Majesty thereof.

His Shereefian Majesty has now instructed me to reply to you and express His Majesty's pleasure at the friendly bearing of your respected Government and for the attention they have given to the interests of His Shereefian Empire, for which he thanks them, as also he thanks you for your praiseworthy endeavours and kindly intermediation, and a Shereefian order has been issued for the removal of the aforesaid prisoners from Mazagan prison and for the carrying out on them of the sentences in accordance with what is stated above, and for the payment through you of the grant of 2,000*l.*, and His Majesty hopes you will take steps to invest that amount in such a manner that the benefit thereof may accrue to the said widow during her lifetime (*i.e.*, an annuity) to mark His Shereefian Majesty's compassion towards her.

May you, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

No. 8.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 6.)

(No. 261. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Fez, October* 27, 1905.

AFTER the receipt of the communication from the Makhzen agreeing to the programme of the Conference, and Algeciras as the place of meeting, Count Tattenbach approached M. Saint-René Taillandier, upon instructions from his Government, with a

No. 8*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, November 7, 1905.*

THE French and German Chargés d'Affaires and myself were requested by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to call upon him this morning, and he then communicated a letter to us which he had received from the hotel at Algeciras, wherein it was asserted by the manager that rooms were engaged from the 1st December, from which date the Spanish Government were held to arrangement, although Señor de Ojeda still maintains they only accepted it in principle and no date was fixed. Some misunderstanding has evidently occurred.

If the hotel were thrown over, it would in any case probably decline further negotiations and fill up rooms. It is suggested by Señor Montero Rios, Señor de Ojeda said, that without further delay the date of Conference should be fixed, and he hoped that matters would be expedited by the French and German Governments.

The Spanish Government would endeavour to make an arrangement with the hotel to keep the rooms, if the Conference should not meet early in December, but at a lower rate, as board would not be required until the assembling of the Conference.

This compromise would be about 11*l.* a-day for each of the Governments as far as I can calculate, and might I have your Lordship's authorization to agree to it.

The Spanish Government would like us, I think, to expedite a decision with regard to the date by our saying a word at Berlin and Paris.

view to coming to some arrangement with the Moorish Government as to the date of the meeting and certain other formalities. The French Minister, however, not having received any instructions, declined to discuss the matter, and stated that his mission had terminated.

His Excellency left Fez yesterday.

I understand that the Sultan has already selected the Delegates who are to represent him at the Conference, though no official statement regarding their nomination has been made.

They are the following:—

Hadj Mohammed Mokri, a wealthy man who has travelled a good deal in Europe and has always taken an intelligent interest in European countries and their customs. Cid Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Commissioner at Tangier. He, however, is too old to take any very active part in the proceedings, and will probably yield the first place to Mokri. Cid Mohammed Ghannam, an intelligent man who has frequently been appointed for the investigation of matters connected with foreign Legations. There will be one more Delegate, who has not yet been selected. There does not appear to be any interpreter available.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 9.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 8.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November 8, 1905.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of remarks by the Commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, accompanying various reports respecting the capture of Captain Crowther and Lieutenant Hatton by Moorish brigands.

2. In view of the Commander-in-chief's statement in paragraph 1, it is assumed that a copy of these reports has reached your Department from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier. A further copy is therefore not attached.

3. My Lords propose, with Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, to express to the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's ship "Pathfinder," Commander Spencer Hickley, their appreciation of the tact and judgment displayed by him in negotiating for the release of the prisoners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. May to Admiralty.

SUBMITTED, observing that copies of this correspondence have been forwarded to Mr. H. E. White, His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Tangier.

2. I concur in the remarks of the Admiral Superintendent as regards Captain Crowther's judicious behaviour, and I also consider that Commander Hickley acted with great judgment and discretion in all his proceedings when handling the negotiations for the release, and I desire to bring to their Lordships' notice his tactful management of this unusual and difficult matter.

3. I have approved of the submission contained in last paragraph of Commander Hickley's letter, and have authorized payment accordingly.

4. I inclose correspondence between myself and His Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires on the question of refunding the expenses involved in this incident. Mr. White attached great importance to lodging the claim directly after the release, and he has succeeded in obtaining from the Sultan's Government a prompt payment by cheque for 300*l.* 5*s.* (which has now been debited by fleet paymaster of "King Edward VII"), the amount which I reported to Tangier by telegraph on the 23rd instant, and details of which are given in Inclosure 3.

The two additional items (see Inclosure 4), amounting to 5*l.*, were put forward too late, and I concur with Mr. White that it is not desirable now to reopen the matter by pressing this supplementary claim, so I have replied in that sense. I venture to think

their Lordships will agree that, in paying for the 140 tons of coal at 26*s.* 9*d.* a-ton (Las Palmas price), amounting to 187*l.* 5*s.*, as well as for the cost of rifles, &c., and the public money stolen by Valiente, the Moorish Government have contributed all that is reasonable, and I submit that the 3*l.* for Commander Hickley's interpreter and 2*l.* for Captain Crowther's couriers may remain as a charge for which there is no direct "appropriation-in-aid."

(Signed) W. H. MAY, *Vice-Admiral,*
Commander-in-chief.

October 27, 1905.

Summitted,

In forwarding Captain Crowther's very interesting account of his proceedings, I think a tribute is due to this officer for his tact and generally judicious behaviour under unusual circumstances, and I think he was justified in allowing himself to be captured without resistance, viewing the facts detailed by him.

(Signed) E. CHICHESTER,
Admiral Superintendent.

October 25, 1905.

No. 10.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 8.)

(Separate.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 8, 1905.

CAPTURED marine officers: My telegram, Separate, of the 23rd October.

I have been informed by M. de Llaveria that he has been ordered by the Spanish Government to demand that the brigands be punished.

No. 11.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 145.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1905.

MR. CLAUDE MONTEFIORE and Mr. Alexander, K.C., called at the Foreign Office to-day to make representations about the position of the Jews in Morocco. They stated that the disabilities from which the Jews suffer, and which were pointed out in a letter to the late Lord Salisbury of the 3rd February, 1888, have not been removed, in spite of the formal promises of successive Sultans. They asked that the question should be brought before the forthcoming Conference at Algeciras by His Majesty's Representative, in order that the non-Mahommedan subjects of the Sultan might be put on a footing of equality with their Mahommedan fellow-subjects, and that some sort of European supervision should be exercised over the application of any remedial measures that might ultimately be adopted.

They further stated that the German Government, who had been approached on the subject, would not object to the question being brought before the Conference.

I transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the letter to Lord Salisbury mentioned above,* and request that you will take an opportunity of sounding your French and German colleagues at the Conference as to the possibility of including this question, which would appear, strictly speaking, not to be within the scope of the reference, amongst the subjects which will be considered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* Jewish Committee to Lord Salisbury, February 3, 1888 (copy not sent, as letter is printed in 1888 volume).

No. 10*.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Decode.* *Tangier, November* 8, 1905.

NEW German Minister, Dr. von Rosen, arrived last night.

No. 12.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 9.)

(Separate. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 9, 1905.

I HAVE been confidentially informed by M. Saint-René Taillandier that he received a telegraphic communication from his Government when he reached Tangier to the effect that inquiries had been made by the German Ambassador at Paris with reference to the form of invitation to the Conference and the mode of settling its date. It mentioned that the German Minister at Fez had spoken to M. Saint-René Taillandier there on this subject.

M. Saint-René Taillandier, in his answer, suggested that it would be better to settle these points in Europe rather than at Fez; and he explained at the same time what had passed at Fez with reference to them, as has already been reported to your Lordship by Mr. Lowther. The French Minister also gave it as his opinion that there was no object in their specially co-operating with Germany now that a settlement of the programme had been reached.

M. Saint-René Taillandier has since received information from his Government that they intend to act in concert with His Majesty's Government and also with the Spanish Government, in order to come to an agreement on these points.

No. 13.

Memorandum communicated by Senhor da Camara Manoel, November 10, 1905.

(Translation.)

THE German Government inquire whether we are disposed, when officially invited to take part in the Conference convoked by the Emperor of Morocco, to accept that invitation, the bases of the programme to be discussed at the Conference, of which they send a copy, and the proposal that it shall meet at Algeciras. His Majesty's Government wish to act in concert with the British Government. I request you to communicate this intention to Lord Lansdowne, and to ascertain what answer has been given by the British Government to the same invitation.

No. 14.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 262.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 30, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 23rd instant, I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, and told him I had received, by telegraph, instructions from His Majesty's Government to demand the punishment of the brigands in Angera who recently captured two British officers.

The British Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier had made that demand to the Sultan's Commissioner at Tangier—Hadj Hamed Torres—who, however, while agreeing that the criminals deserved to be severely punished, had stated that he could not proceed in the matter until he received directions from the Sultan.

I therefore wished to know exactly whether orders on this subject had been sent to Hadj Hamed Torres, and, if so, whether his Excellency would give me a copy of them for the information of His Majesty's Government. It was most important, I added, that in such a case the punishment should follow the crime as closely as possible, so as to act as an impressive warning, and I wished further to know what precautions the Moorish Government meant to take to prevent the recurrence of such acts of lawlessness.

The Vizir replied that the Moorish Government, no less than the British Government, were indignant at what had occurred, which they abhorred beyond measure. Besides this, they had been deeply affronted by the insolence and defiance the criminals had shown, and they considered no punishment too severe for such people, who, according to the teaching of Islam, placed themselves beyond human compassion by committing such acts.

Once they were caught, the Moorish Government would, therefore, not be sparing in punishing the criminals, and it was, the Vizir agreed, desirable that the punishment should follow the crime as closely as possible.

So far, however, the Moorish Government had not heard from Hadj Hamed Torres of Mr. White's demand, nor of what steps the Tangier authorities proposed to take to that end. The Vizir confidently expected, however, that full reports and suggestions would reach the Shereefian Court very soon from the Tangier authorities, who, being on the spot, were best able to judge what should be done. Thereupon, the Moorish Government would at once go into the matter, and give the necessary sanction, and would inform me either before my departure from Fez, or during my journey to Tangier, of their intentions. I thanked the Vizir for this assurance and remarked that such criminals must surely have enemies who would procure their capture or assist towards that end, but that it lay with the Makhzen to devise the best means to accomplish the object required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 15.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 263.)
My Lord, *Fez, October* 30, 1905.

I TO-DAY had a final audience of the Sultan.

In bidding His Shereefian Majesty farewell I desired to state that since my arrival here five months ago I had met with universal courtesy, not only from the officials with whom I had been brought into contact, but from private persons, and, indeed, I might say from the whole population of the city. The Mission had passed off without an unpleasant word or the shadow of a disagreeable incident. It would be my pleasant duty to report this fact to my Government; and His Majesty was fully aware how much interest my Government had always taken in his country, and I should assure His Majesty that this interest would be maintained.

As regarded the political questions which had been treated during my stay here, I trusted that I might be allowed to express the hope that the steps which had been so far taken were in accordance with His Majesty's wishes. I had no doubt that the work of the Conference would bring about those changes and reforms which His Majesty desired, and which would prove of infinite benefit to his country.

In taking leave of His Majesty I desired to express the hope that God might give him long life and health, and to state my conviction that the relations between the country I had the honour to represent and that over which His Majesty held sway would always remain as cordial as they are at present.

His Majesty replied that he was much gratified to hear that the visit of the Mission had been so agreeable. Such attentions as I had met with were but due to the Representative of Great Britain.

With regard to the political question, His Imperial Majesty noted with pleasure what I had said, and concurred entirely in it, and it would add to His Majesty's pleasure in that connection if the good results to be expected from the Conference were furthered by the assistance of the British Government, and by me as its intermediary.

His Majesty thanked me for the good wishes I had expressed on his behalf, and in conclusion referred in gracious terms to his desire for the prosperity of His Majesty and of his Government and country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *Madrid, November* 2, 1905.

THE French Ambassador informed me this morning that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had spoken to him as to the probable date on which the Morocco Conference

would assemble, and had also inquired as to who would issue the invitations. M. Cambon said that he believed that it had been left to the Sultan to issue the invitations and also to suggest a date. Señor Gullón remarked that he feared in that case delays would occur, which he deprecated, as it was always possible some fresh event or new proposal would arise, and in his view the sooner the Conference met the better.

I told M. Cambon that I fully shared this opinion, and that if the question of the date were left to the Sultan it seemed to me probable that delays would occur, as I did not imagine that His Shereefian Majesty was particularly anxious to hasten matters. There was a further point which I thought should be considered, and that was the question of expense. The four Governments of Spain, Great Britain, France, and Germany had practically guaranteed to engage accommodation at the hotel from the 1st December, and I understood the Spanish Government had so informed the managers. It would be a waste of money if such expenses were to run on for any length of time, and it seemed to me that it would be of advantage if the date of meeting were not unduly postponed.

This evening, when calling on the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, I drew his attention to this point, but he informed me that, on reflection, the late Minister for Foreign Affairs had thought it better not to fix a date with the hotel management, and had only accepted their terms on principle. I asked if the managers were content to leave the matter open, and he replied that he did not know, as the acceptance of the terms had only been notified two or three days ago, and there had been no time for a reply.

I said that I had been much pressed to obtain a reply from your Lordship as soon as possible, as to our joining in the guarantee in regard to accommodation, as I had been told that an immediate notification must be given to the hotel. As, however, no positive engagement had been taken, our hands on that point were, of course, much freer, and I trusted the hotel management would be content to wait a little longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Madrid, November* 8, 1905.

M. DE OJEDA, the Under-Secretary of State, requested the French and German Chargés d'Affaires and myself to call upon him yesterday morning, and informed us that he had received a letter from the manager of the Algeciras Hotel, stating that he was reserving, from the 1st December, on the terms agreed upon, the number of rooms which had been previously engaged. M. de Ojeda remarked that the manager, Mr. Thomson, had ignored the reservation which had been made in the letter from the Spanish Foreign Office, to the effect that, while agreeing to the terms, the Spanish Government were unable at present to fix a date from which the engagement should run. He had, he said, spoken to the Prime Minister on the subject, who had expressed a strong desire that the Conference should meet as soon as possible, and had commissioned M. de Ojeda to inquire of the French and German Representatives whether they had any information as to what steps were being taken towards a convocation of the assembly.

Neither of the gentlemen present were able to enlighten us on the subject, and both M. de Ojeda and myself submitted that it would be desirable if they would telegraph to their respective Governments and ascertain whether any action was being taken. This they promised to do.

In regard to the difficulty with the hotel, we were all of opinion that it was clear that the manager would not indefinitely keep his offer open, and I observed that I knew of two cases in which he had refused friends of mine owing to his being under the impression that his rooms were engaged for the Conference. The hotel evidently would not run the risk of losing the season. I also remarked that unless communications with other Powers were immediately opened in regard to the date, it appeared highly improbable that the Conference could meet before January, and if the decision as to the date were left to the Sultan still further delay would occur.

M. de Ojeda said that the Prime Minister had suggested that a proposal should

be made to the hotel to retain the rooms from the 1st December until the meeting of the Conference on lower terms than those which included board for the Delegates and their staffs; and we calculated that this would mean about 11*l.* a-day for each of the four Governments. As this seemed the only way out of the dilemma, I ventured to telegraph the proposal to your Lordship. I do not know if the hotel will accept the proposal, and in any case it is unfortunate that the Governments should be put to the expense of paying for rooms which are not occupied. If the French and German Governments could arrive at a speedy understanding as to the date, there would still be a possibility of meeting in the early days of December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 18.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 11.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 3, 1905.

THE high-handed proceedings of Reisuli are giving rise to much complaint, but the Moorish authorities here appear unable to check him. Not only are Moorish subjects suffering from his exactions, but he even exercises authority over foreigners and persons under foreign protection. He has lately pulled down the hedges of some gardens belonging to foreigners on the alleged grounds that they had been advanced on Government land, and has arrested some Algerians and persons under foreign protection, releasing them on payment of heavy fines.

The Moorish authorities have expostulated with him, and have pointed out that, by the terms of the Treaties, he is precluded from exercising jurisdiction over any foreigners or protégés. He, however, pays no attention to these remonstrances.

I am informed privately that the authorities have complained to the Sultan of Reisuli's proceedings, and have informed His Majesty that they could now effect his capture, as he now has many enemies. His Majesty, however, replied that he did not desire his arrest, and that he was to be supported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 19.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 704.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1905.

I HAVE received a communication from the French Minister, stating that he has been instructed to inform me unofficially that M. Rouvier considers the moment has arrived to settle the question of the date of the assembling of the Morocco Conference and the form to be given to the invitation.

It appears to M. Rouvier that, the Sultan having accepted Algeciras as the place of meeting, it behoves Spain to indicate the date on which it will be convenient to her to receive the Delegates, and to invite the Powers to meet on that date. Spain would previously ascertain from the Sultan whether the date selected would be agreeable to His Majesty, and the proposal would, if necessary, be supported by France, Great Britain, and Germany. In signifying his acceptance, the Sultan would thereby give his consent to the issue of the invitations, which would be but the fulfilment of the desire expressed by him in the Circular which he addressed to the Representatives at Tangier on the subject of the Conference.

I have informed M. Geoffray that the procedure suggested by M. Rouvier seems to me quite appropriate to the circumstances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 20.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 12, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. The Moorish Delegates appointed to represent the Sultan are expected to arrive here about the 26th of this month.

No. 21.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *Madrid, November* 10, 1905.

THE Senate terminated yesterday the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and the Government obtained a majority of fifty-five votes in a comparatively small House. The debate has been in progress for some days, and the Prime Minister gave a general reply yesterday to the various criticisms which had been passed on the programme and past policy of the Government.

Señor Montero Rios, in the course of his speech, dwelt at some length on the foreign policy of Spain, which he summed up as being directed towards establishing friendly and correct relations with all Powers, and in maintaining the position of Spain as a European Power who was entitled to have a voice in matters of general European interest. His Excellency added that Spain might have special motives for establishing special relations on certain specific questions with one or other of the Powers, but these special relations would not cause any prejudice to the legitimate interests of other Powers or in any way affect the general friendly understanding which Spain desired to establish with all.

In regard to the Morocco question, his Excellency gave a short sketch of the Anglo-French Declaration, to which Spain had subsequently adhered. He especially referred to the Article in the above-mentioned Declaration which admitted the special interests of Spain in the Shereefian Empire, for the insertion of which Article, his Excellency observed, Spain could never be sufficiently grateful to Great Britain. He added that the arrangements which Spain had been in a position to make with France were favourable to Spanish interests, and though he was not in a position to go into the question in detail, he could affirm that the conferences he had held with the French Ambassador during the summer had treated of the manner in which the arrangements should be interpreted, and he was happy to state that the interpretation agreed upon was in a sense eminently satisfactory to Spain. When the moment arrived for making public the details of the arrangements, he would be prepared to issue a "Red Book" on the negotiations, so that the Chambers could form a judgment on the question. Señor Montero Rios further explained the reasons which had led to the selection of Algeciras as the place where the Conference should assemble.

In regard to the relations with the Vatican—a question which Señor Montero Rios termed the greatest of all—he said that up to the present no negotiations had been opened with the Holy See, for the simple reason that the Nuncio had for some time past been absent from Madrid. His Excellency gave expression to his personal views on the question of the congregations, and of the relations between the Church and the State, which represented, he trusted, the opinions of a devout Catholic animated by a desire for perfect liberty of conscience and respect for the religious feelings of the great majority of the nation. He fully recognized and admired those who formed themselves into associations for religious devotion and meditation, and who withdrew from the world in order to devote themselves to the moral improvement of their fellows. Still, he considered that the congregations in regard to temporal matters should be governed by the same laws as applied to secular societies. As his Excellency, however, reiterated that the above were merely his own personal views, which he did not desire to enforce on others, and as the matter presumably will eventually become a subject for legislation and discussion, it is not necessary to dwell on a question which has not yet been brought forward in a practical form.

The general impression appears to be that the Prime Minister made an effective and skilful exposition of the policy of the Government in regard both to internal and external questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, November 14, 1905.*

THE Spanish Government has been officially requested to issue invitations to the Morocco Conference by the German and French Chargé d'Affaires, and to arrange with the Sultan as to date on which it should meet.

The Spanish Minister at Tangier has been instructed by his Government to ask the Sultan to fix a date, and to request His Majesty to notify to them officially that Algeciras and the programme were accepted by him.

I have made the suggestion that it would be well that the Sultan should be also informed by the Spanish Government that the German and French Governments had requested them to take this action, and that if a specified date were submitted to His Majesty it would hasten matters.

No. 23.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, November 15, 1905.*

MOROCCAN affairs.

Referring to my telegram No. 88 of the 14th November, I am informed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the Spanish Minister in Tangier has been instructed by telegraph to inform the Sultan that the Spanish Government suggest that the Conference should meet on the 15th December, and that they propose to invite the other Powers accordingly, unless the Sultan has strong objections to that date.

At the request of the Spanish Government the French and Spanish Chargé d'Affaires have telegraphed to their Governments suggesting that their Representatives at Tangier should afford their support to their Spanish colleague.

No. 24.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Manoel.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 15, 1905.*

WITH reference to the communication made by you on the 10th instant, I have the honour to state that His Majesty's Government have accepted the invitation to be represented at the forthcoming Morocco Conference.

They have also accepted the programme of the subjects to be discussed at the Conference, and the proposal that it shall meet at Algeciras.

His Majesty's Government are pleased to learn that the Portuguese Government intend to act in concert with them in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 25*.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November* 15, 1905.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed French Representative at Madrid that his Government would have no objection to Conference assembling in January instead of December. It has been suggested by Spanish Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that were it to meet in the middle of December, it would have to adjourn for Christmas and the new year.

No. 25.

Foreign Office to London Committee of Deputies of British Jews.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 15, 1905.

I INFORMED the Marquess of Lansdowne of the tenour of the conversation which I had on the 8th instant with Mr. Claude Montefiore and Mr. Alexander, K.C., respecting the treatment of Jews in Morocco.

His Lordship has now addressed a despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid (who will represent His Majesty's Government at the Morocco Conference), informing his Excellency that Mr. Montefiore and Mr. Alexander had made representations on the above subject, and had stated that the disabilities from which the Jews in Morocco suffer, and which had been pointed out to the late Lord Salisbury in 1888, had not been removed, in spite of the formal promises of successive Sultans. That they had asked that the question should be brought before the forthcoming Conference at Algeciras by His Majesty's Representative, in order that the non-Mahommedan subjects of the Sultan might be put on a footing of equality with their Mahommedan fellow-subjects, and that some sort of European supervision should be exercised over the application of any remedial measures which might ultimately be adopted.

That they further stated that the German Government, who had been approached on the subject, would not raise objections to the question being brought before the Conference.

Sir A. Nicolson has been requested to consult his French and German colleagues at the Conference as to the possibility of including, amongst the subjects to be considered, this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

No. 26.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 16, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. Your Lordship's telegram No. 62 of the 15th instant.

A note is being addressed to the Moorish Government by the Spanish Minister naming the 15th proximo as the date for the meeting of the Conference. This note is in substitution for one dispatched by him on the 14th instant, and now cancelled, in regard to the official notification to be made by the Sultan to the Spanish Government of his acceptance of the programme and of Algeciras as the place of meeting.

No. 27.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 107.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1905.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 263 of the 30th ultimo reporting your farewell audience of the Sultan on the eve of your departure from Fez.

I take this opportunity of conveying to you my entire approval of your proceedings during your long detention at the Moorish Court, and of the manner in which you have dealt with the various questions which you have been called upon to discuss with the Sultan's Ministers.

Your presence at Fez during a period of unusual difficulty cannot have failed to produce an excellent effect, and, no doubt, helped materially to bring about the agreement which has been arrived at in regard to the meeting of the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 28.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, November* 17, 1905.

MOROCCAN affairs.

I am informed by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that it was not his intention to suggest a postponement of the meeting of the Conference till January, as mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 89 of the 16th instant. As regards an adjournment for Christmas holidays, personally I think it unnecessary, and M. de Ojeda considers that the question is one for decision by the Delegates after they have assembled. The Spanish Government are making an informal communication to the foreign Representatives here that they would like the opening of the Conference to take place on the 15th December, and that when the Sultan's reply has been received they will send official notification.

Being questioned by the Under-Secretary as to whether I thought an invitation should be issued to Norway, I gave an affirmative reply.

No. 29.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 267.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 10, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that during the time I was at Fez I discussed with the Maghzen seventy-four cases and claims, some of which had been pending for some years. In fifty of these I either obtained full or partial satisfaction, or I received letters for the Kaids to settle the matters, which amounts to an admission of liability.

In four cases the Maghzen declared their inability to pay, admitting that the Sultan no longer possessed any authority in the district where the offence was committed.

Thirteen cases the Maghzen declined absolutely to entertain, and seven cases are still under discussion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 30.

Sir M. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 20. Consular.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, November* 13, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I learn from His Majesty's Consul at Lisbon that the agents of the Belgian steamer "Ville de Bordeaux" have asked permission of the Customs authorities to transfer the arms and ammunition on board that vessel to the Spanish steamer "Herrera."

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 31.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 202.)
My Lord, *Madrid, November* 14, 1905.

THE Under-Secretary of State informed me this afternoon that the French and German Chargés d'Affaires had addressed official notes to the Spanish Government, requesting them to issue invitations for the Conference at Algeciras, and to arrange with the Sultan for a date of meeting. The note from the French Embassy had mentioned that it would be well if the Conference were to assemble as soon as possible,

and the German Chargé d'Affaires had intimated verbally that it would not be convenient to his Government for the sittings to commence before the 15th December.

Señor de Ojeda said that he had conferred with the Prime Minister on the subject, and that a telegram had been dispatched to the Spanish Minister at Tangier, instructing him to request the Moorish Government to officially notify to the Spanish Government that the Sultan had accepted the programme for the Conference, and had agreed to Algeciras as the place of meeting. The Prime Minister, Señor de Ojeda added, wished to proceed in a regular manner, and as no official notification had as yet been made to the Spanish Government by the Sultan, it was necessary that this formality should be fulfilled. The Prime Minister had considered that when this notification had been received, the Spanish Government should proceed to arrange with the Sultan as to the date of meeting, but, from a telegram just received from Tangier, it appeared that the Spanish Minister, in the note which he had addressed to the Sultan's Deputy in accordance with his instructions, had also expressed the hope that the Sultan would propose a date on which the Conference should open.

Señor de Ojeda said that the Prime Minister desired to have my views on the subject.

I told Señor de Ojeda that as the Spanish Minister had already made his communication, my observations would be a little belated. I thought it was unnecessary to adopt formal diplomatic methods in dealing with the Moorish Government, and that to my mind it would have been more expeditious if the Sultan had been simply informed that the Spanish Government had been requested by the French and German Governments to issue the invitations to the Conference, as it was to be held on Spanish soil, and that as they understood the Moorish Delegates would shortly arrive at Tangier, they presumed that they would be meeting His Majesty's wishes if they proposed to the other Powers that the Conference should assemble on the 15th December. In the circumstances, I did not think that it would be found possible to arrange with the other Powers for an earlier date.

I was afraid that the Sultan might not understand the sudden intervention of Spain unless some reason were given for it, and His Majesty might interpret a bare request for an official notification as indicating some new departure. Moreover, I thought that the Sultan might be perplexed when asked to fix a date himself unless one were proposed to him.

I would venture to suggest that a second and explanatory note should be sent to the Moorish Government in the sense I had indicated, and it might also be well if the French and German Governments, as they had expressed their readiness to do so, were asked to support it, especially as there was no Spanish Consul at Fez through whom communications could pass.

Señor de Ojeda said that he would communicate my remarks to the Prime Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 32.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 175. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, November* 14, 1905.

A FEW days ago I asked Signor Tittoni if he had any news to give me about the Morocco Conference.

No, his Excellency answered. The French, to judge by M. Barrère's language, appeared uneasy about it, but without reason, he thought, as the main difficulties had been got over, and the Conference should be a mere formality.

I asked him if he had decided on the Italian Representative. His Excellency said he had not yet, but he might send the present Minister in Morocco, or M. Silvestrelli, the Ambassador at Madrid.

I told him that in my personal opinion the latter would not be a good choice. I knew he was a friend and connection of his, and he was also a friend of mine, but I had been at two posts with him, and mistrusted his judgment. In a meeting of this sort he was too inclined to take a line of his own.

M. Tittoni said that he had heard that Sir Arthur Nicolson might be British Representative, but this he understood, as he was versed in the affairs of Morocco. His Excellency did not appear at all to hold to M. Silvestrelli's appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 33.

Sir F. Bertie to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 421.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 16, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of an article from to-day's "Dépêche Coloniale,"* containing an interesting résumé (accompanied by a map) of the results of an examination of the mouth of the Sebu River.

The writer considers, subject to the results that may be given by exhaustive soundings along the bar of the river, that the site is admirably suited for the establishment of a port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 34.

Sir M. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 21. Consular.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, November* 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my immediately preceding despatch, that I learn on good authority that the arms and ammunition in the "Ville de Bordeaux" are, after all, not to be transferred to the "Herrera" as seemed at one time to be intended.

The "Seculo" of the 16th instant reported the seizure here of sixteen cases of rifles of military pattern, which had arrived by the steam-ship "St. Jacques" from Belgium, consigned to Lisbon, but supposed to be intended for Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 35.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 24.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, November* 24, 1905.

CONFERENCE on Morocco.

Mr. Henry White, the American Ambassador here, has been appointed first Representative of the United States.

I have not seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs lately, but I understand that there is a question of the Marquis Visconti Venosta being appointed Italian Representative. If this is true, the selection appears to me to be excellent.

No. 36.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 24.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 24, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. The United States' Government has appointed Mr. Gummeré, United States' Minister here, to represent his Government at the forthcoming Conference.

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* Not printed.

No. 37.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 272.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 15, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 261, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I understand that the Sultan has made some changes in the selection of the officials to represent this country at the Conference. They are now officially stated to be the following :—

Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Commissioner at Tangier.
Cid Hadj Mohammed Mokri.
Cid Hadj Mohammed Seffar, of Tetuan, who has sometimes acted as Commissioner at Tangier.
Cid Hadj Mohammed Benuna, formerly employed in the Ministry of Finance.
Cid Mohammed Ben Nis, formerly employed in the office of the Commissioner at Tangier.

I understand that all the above are ready to leave Fez, and are only awaiting news of the date of the meeting of the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 38.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 273.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 15, 1905.

M. SAINT-RENÉ TAILLANDIER, before leaving Tangier, told me that in conversation with Dr. Rosen, the new German Minister, the latter had said that the German Government was at a loss to understand why the French Government had objected to Tangier for the Conference. The German Government was not specially in favour of Tangier, but were obliged to support the Moorish Government in that suggestion for form's sake. But Dr. Rosen added that, in his opinion, it would have been advantageous to France to have a Conference at Tangier, where it would be easier to obtain an acceptance of their programme, than that a Conference should be held in Europe with Delegates of much more standing and importance, who would be less likely to accept the French proposals without minute examination.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said he was at a loss to understand the object of Dr. Rosen's remarks, but they seemed to imply that they might look for some obstruction on the part of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 39.

Native Races and Liquor Traffic United Committee to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 25.)

139, *Palace Chambers*, 9, *Bridge Street, Westminster*,
My Lord Marquess, *November* 23, 1905.

I AM directed by my Committee to refer to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 6th July, and to thank your Lordship for the sympathetic answer to their suggestion as to approaching the Shereefian Government on the subject of the importation of liquor into Morocco.

While accepting the decision arrived at by His Majesty's Minister at Morocco, after consultation with the French Minister, that the present may not be a favourable moment for approaching the Shereefian Government in the direction suggested by the Committee, they yet believe there is nothing that would go further towards reconciling the Moors

to European influence in their country than the assurance that their religious susceptibilities as regards liquor should not be interfered with.

As your Lordship is aware, it is just as contrary to the teaching of the Koran for a Mahommedan Government to derive revenue from the sale of liquor as it is for a Mahommedan either to sell or drink it, and the Committee earnestly trust that when the right time comes this question will be dealt with from the Mahommedan point of view.

The Committee also feel that the importation of liquor into Morocco is not at all in the same category as that of arms and ammunition, as suggested by Mr. Lowther. The tribesmen, who are warlike and import arms, are, we believe, decidedly antagonistic to the introduction of alcoholic liquor.

For these reasons the Committee earnestly ask your Lordship that the consideration of the question of the importation of liquor may not be long delayed, and that it may be dealt with apart from that of arms and ammunition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. H. NOTT, *Secretary.*

No. 40.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Rome, November* 25, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

My telegram No. 97 of the 24th instant.

I am informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he will not appoint the Marquis Visconti Venosta as Italian Representative.

No. 41.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, November* 26, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

I was told to-day by M. Cambon that he intended to take an early opportunity of impressing on the Spanish Premier the importance that France would attach to the selection that Spain would make of a Delegate to the Conference in connection with the attitude of the Spanish Government, and in view of the fact that he knew that the recent agreements arranged at San Sebastian between Premier and himself were not approved of by certain high officials at the Spanish Foreign Office.

On my stating that the Under-Secretary of State would probably be a Delegate, the French Ambassador said that, if this nomination were made, M. Rouvier had authorized him to protest.

I replied that it would, in my opinion, be a mistake to attempt to veto the nomination of the Under-Secretary, and I indicated additional circumstances which would render it most inadvisable at the present juncture. In any case, I urged that M. Cambon should make no reference to individuals in his observations. I said I had no objection to M. Cambon telegraphing this opinion to M. Rouvier, as he expressed a desire to do so.

No. 42.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 26, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

My telegram No. 110 of the 24th November.

The United States' Government have appointed Mr. White, their Ambassador at Rome, as the United States' Delegate at the forthcoming Conference. Mr. Gummeré, United States' Minister here, will assist him.

No. 43.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 275.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 20, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, reporting that order is well maintained in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Vice-Consul Madden to Mr. Lowther.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Mogador, November* 14, 1905.

HAVING observed a telegram to the "Times," stating that "insecurity is everywhere general" in this country, I have the honour to report that order is well maintained in this town, no accounts of any disorders reaching me at the present time. It is no doubt largely due to the temperate habits of the Moors here that many country Arabs who daily visit this place carry on their commercial transactions peaceably.

In the country districts, too, I have not of late heard of any troubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

No. 44.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 276.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 20, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, containing information regarding Uld Ma-el-Aineen, who is at present at Mogador, and regarding the proceedings of the French in Adrar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Memorandum.

(Secret.)

THE followers of Uld Ma-el-Aineen are selling rifles and cartridges openly at Mogador; they offer them to the shops and at the auction. These guns they have obtained at Fedalla and from the Maghzen authorities at Morocco city; they are selling both. They are offering the guns at 40 dollars each. One of the men told my clerk and scribe that he could sell them three guns. The number of guns received by the Shereef at Morocco cannot be ascertained, but it is certain they received a lot. Some time ago the Maghzen sent 900 rifles down to Cape Juby for these people.

It seems open to doubt whether the Sultan gains much by the money His Majesty causes to be spent on these people in mona, presents, and guns. I am informed that the eldest son of the Sheikh Ma-el-Aineen is in the service of the French at Shengit, in Adrar, with a French Colonel named "Young." Uld Ma-el-Aineen, the one now here, is the younger son, and is now Khalifa, as his brother is in Adrar.

An Algerian, a Fazi named Ben Yousef, some seven or eight months ago visited, on behalf of the French Government, the Wad S'mar, the head-quarters of the Sheikh Ma-el-Aineen. This man, however, passed himself off as a Shereef from Bagdad, being fortified with credentials as such.

Speaking recently about the Sheikh Ma-el-Aineen with my French colleague, M. Jeannier mentioned that the French must now be near the land of this Sheikh. He said that some time ago a French Administrator in the north of Senegal, named M. Coppolani, for whom a special "Bureau Saharien" was created in the part of the country called Mauritania, went further than he should have done, and was murdered by the Arabs. It was, however, his own fault in reality, M. Jeannier said, as M. Coppolani was extraordinarily brutal towards the natives. Nevertheless, a punitive expedition was sent to the Adrar or near there by the French, who have, I understood from my French colleague, remained there.

(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

Mogador, October 30, 1905.

P.S.—Speaking later, the French Consul said that the Sultan was loading the Shereef with presents to prevent his taking French protection, as he had threatened to do like his brother had done. As a matter of fact, he added, the tribe of Ma-el-Aineen, which only numbered some 2,000 or 3,000, is already practically hemmed in by the French advanced military post at Tinduf, by Senegal, and by the frontier of Rio del Oro.

A. M. M.

No. 45.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 183. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, November* 24, 1905.

I HAVE heard indirectly, but not from the Minister for Foreign Affairs (whom I have not seen for a few days), that there is a possibility of the appointment of the Marquis Visconti Venosta as chief Italian Representative at the Conference about to take place at Algeciras on the affairs of Morocco.

When I see M. Tittoni I shall permit myself to say that, with this prudent, sound, and trustworthy statesman of the very highest class in the Conference, Italy will be well represented at Algeciras.

Mr. H. White, the American Ambassador here, has been appointed Representative of the United States at the Conference, with the present American Representative in Morocco as his subordinate.

Mr. Choate, who was spoken of at one time for Algeciras, will be, I understand, the United States' Representative at The Hague.

That M. Tattenbach should be second Representative of Germany appears to arouse M. Barrère's suspicions of the German attitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 46.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 184. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, November* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 183 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that I saw M. Tittoni to-day and asked his Excellency whether it were true that he had appointed the Marquis Visconti Venosta chief Italian Representative at Algeciras.

His Excellency answered me in the negative, and said that the French Ambassador had spoken to him on the subject, but too late.

The other countries would, with the exception of France, be represented by Ambassadors. To send a former Foreign Minister would be for Italy to take an exceptionally leading position; it would be as if France sent M. Hanotaux or England Lord Rosebery.

I asked him if he had named M. Silvestrelli. He answered nothing was settled yet.

I repeated that in Paris they appeared anxious about the coming Conference, and

as the appointment of M. Silvestrelli (who was considered there as having supported M. Radowitz at Madrid) would increase the French alarm, I had hoped that somebody else would be named for the post.

M. Tittoni said that from Prince Bülow's language to him in their late interview he did not anticipate that Germany was likely to give trouble at the Conference.

I believe it is probable that the Marquis Visconti Venosta will be named Italian Representative at The Hague Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 47.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 29.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 29, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. The Austrian Delegate at the Conference is to be assisted by Count Kozìebrodzki, the Austrian Minister here.

No. 48.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 30, 1905.

A CIRCULAR note from the Moorish Commissioner at Fez, dated the 26th October, has reached me to-day. It requests the presence of the British Delegate for the 21st December, which it names as the date for the opening of the Morocco Conference.

The Spanish invitation for the Conference to open on the 15th December is not mentioned in the note, and I am informed privately that the Moorish authorities state that their Government only received the Spanish invitation on the 26th.

No. 49.

M. Cambon to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 1.)

M. le Marquis, *Ambassade de France, Londres, le* 30 *Novembre,* 1905.

JE suis chargé de faire savoir à votre Seigneurie que le Gouvernement de la République a désigné M. Révoil comme son unique Délégué à la Conférence d'Algésiras.

M. Révoil recevra la qualité d'Ambassadeur et ne sera accompagné que de conseillers spéciaux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

No. 50.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *The Hague, November* 30, 1905.

M. VAN TETS informed me yesterday that M. H. C. J. Testa, the Netherland Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Madrid, has been appointed to represent the Netherlands at the International Conference on the affairs of Morocco, which is to meet next month at Algeciras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 51.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 1, 1905.

THE remaining Moorish Delegates were to leave Fez to-day. The principal Delegates left on the 26th November.

Have telegraphed the above to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

No. 52.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 23, 1905.

I SAW Count Tattenbach on his way through Tangier *en route* for Germany but he did not make any reference to the political situation but merely confined himself to an expression of satisfaction at leaving this country for good.

To some of my colleagues he expressed himself as surprised and hurt that he had been held up in France as a "croque-mitaine" in the Moroccan question, which had made it impossible for him to represent Germany at the forthcoming Conference. He could not understand why France attached so much importance to some questions to which he did not give much weight, namely, the general policing of the country by French.

Moreover, it was useless for France to endeavour to obtain from the Conference a mandate to undertake the general question of police; the Sultan would never consent to France or any other great Power undertaking this duty; and Germany had no idea of putting forward such a claim on her own behalf.

Count Tattenbach's suggestion appears to be that the Swiss Government should be invited by the Conference to police this country, and I understand that Dr. Rosen has made a similar suggestion here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 53.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 280.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 249 of the 28th September, I have the honour to report that the Pretender has not shown much activity lately and there does not appear to have been any fighting worthy of the name. The Pretender himself is at Kasbah Seluan, near Melilla, and from thence he issues letters to various tribes all over the country informing them of successes he has obtained, advising them of his early arrival in their district and instructing them to be prepared with the necessary provisions for his army. One of these letters addressed by his Khalifa to a tribe at the gates of Fez has come into my hands. Reisouli is the agent who is used by the Pretender for forwarding these documents.

I understand that the Pretender has also addressed a letter to the Italian Minister, the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, asking him to inform the European Governments that he was ready to protect all European interests if they acknowledged him as Sovereign, but if they continued to give their support to the present Sultan they would suffer.

This letter has not come into the hands of the Italian Minister, but has been sent up to the Court along with many others addressed to the tribes.

News has reached here that the Pretender has sent an army to El Ksabi and, without a fight, occupied that important pass between Fez and Tafilelt. The Makhzen are sending a small Mahalah against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 54.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 281.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 219 of the 17th August and No. 233 of the 30th August, I have the honour to report that Taib, son of Bu Amama the associate of the Pretender, is still detained in prison at Fez.

The French Chargé d'Affaires a few days ago issued a Circular to his colleagues informing them, in the event of this man seeking foreign protection, of the fact that he was already under French protection.

I understand from Count Saint Aulaire, that it is the intention of the French Government to lay before the Makhzen a demand for the release of the man in view of his French protection, and this will no doubt give rise to a question similar to the case of Bu Mzian in the summer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 55.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 282.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 25, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Wyldbore Smith's despatch, Separate, of the 4th September, regarding the smuggling of arms at Fedalla from the Belgian steamer "Ville de Bordeaux," I have the honour to report that I hear from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida that the German Consular Agent at Rabat has been tried in the Consular Court on the charge of smuggling, and having been found guilty was fined 400 marks.

The German Consular Agent has now resigned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 56.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 2.)

Sir, *Admiralty, November* 30, 1905.

IN reply to your letter of the 21st instant, forwarding copy of a despatch No. 421 of the 16th instant, together with its inclosure, from His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, relative to the possibility of establishing a port at the mouth of the Sebu River, in Morocco, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, the following particulars regarding this locality:—

The Sebu River, or, as it is more frequently called, Wadi Sebu, is a perennial stream which, rising near the foot of the Atlas range passes through Fay and on to the Atlantic, its general course being from north-east to south-west.

The valley of the Sebu is very fertile and richly cultivated, but the river is very shallow in places, being fordable when it is low in September. My Lords are informed that there is a depth of water of 6 feet over the bar, but the report forwarded with Sir F. Bertie's despatch gives greater depths. This is by no means unlikely, as bars in this neighbourhood are subject to great changes due partly to the amount of surf which prevails and partly to the varying state of the river itself, which are produced as the case may be, by a rainy or dry season.

It would be by no means impossible to construct works off this river, and to dredge its bar so as to render it navigable for a short distance. Such works, however, would probably cost a very large sum, and if the conditions of the coast in the vicinity were not studied for a considerable time before the works were designed, the whole plan might result in a complete failure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 57.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 2, 1905.*

MOROCCO. Algeciras Conference.

I have been informed by the French Ambassador that M. Rouvier thinks that a suggestion might be made to the Spanish Government to fix the 6th January as the date of meeting of Conference, as he considers that, in view of Christmas and New Year, it would be difficult to accept the Sultan's proposal that it should meet on the 21st December. I agree that it would be useless for the Conference to meet on that date and immediately adjourn, and it is evident that it will now be impossible for it to assemble on the 15th December. In the circumstances, the suggestion of the French Ambassador seems the best possible, although it is regrettable that the 15th December could not have been managed.

The matter will be mentioned to the Spanish Government by the French Ambassador.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, November 28, 1905.*

THE French Ambassador informed me on the 26th instant that he was to see the Prime Minister that evening, and that he intended to speak seriously to his Excellency in regard to the attitude which some of the higher officials at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs were adopting with respect to the Agreements which had been arranged at San Sebastian. M. Cambon said he was well aware that these officials were opposed to the Agreements, and that he intended to impress on Señor Montero Rios that the French Government attached importance to the choice of the Spanish Delegate or Delegates at the Conference.

I told M. Cambon that the Under-Secretary of State, M. de Ojeda, had recently informed me that the Prime Minister desired that he should take part in the Conference.

M. Cambon said that he had been authorized by M. Rouvier to protest against the nomination of M. de Ojeda; and he would specially mention his name that evening to Señor Montero Rios.

I told my French colleague that, if he would permit me to say so, I thought it would be a mistake to endeavour to impose a veto on the nomination of any Spanish Delegate, whatever the personal views of the latter might be. It was possible that the Spanish Government would resent such an intervention and ignore it, or, while still resenting it, cede to strong pressure on his part. In either alternative the result would be to introduce, before the Conference had even met, elements of discord, and many misinterpretations and difficulties, and would certainly render M. de Ojeda, who was an important functionary, a declared enemy of France. I knew M. de Ojeda well, and had no fear that he would be a danger in the Conference.

After some further conversation, M. Cambon said he would abstain from mentioning any names, and asked if I had any objection to his telegraphing to M. Rouvier the views which I have expressed. I replied that I had no objection whatever.

I saw M. Cambon this afternoon, and he told me that he had had his interview with Señor Montero Rios, who said he was perfectly well aware of the sentiments of the Foreign Office officials, which were prompted chiefly by annoyance that he himself had taken entirely into his own hands the negotiations in regard to the Conference. His Excellency said that he was the responsible Chief of the Government, and was entitled to deal with any matters to whatever Department they appertained, and that he intended to observe strictly, both in the letter and the spirit, the Agreements which Spain had made with France. The latter country could rely on the loyal support of Spain at the Conference.

M. Cambon added that he had mentioned no names, and had only spoken in general

No. 57*.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(Private.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 3, 1905.*

FRENCH Ambassador tells me that French Minister for Foreign Affairs fears that, if His Majesty's Government follow example of some other Powers and have two Delegates at the Conference, efforts will be made to refer questions to Committees. He indicated objections to this, among others that Conference would thus be unduly prolonged. I think we should support French view. French Minister for Foreign Affairs expresses hope that Spanish Government, as well as His Majesty's Government, will consent to be represented by only one Delegate, and French Ambassador recommending this to them.

No. 61*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 4, 1905.

WE will only send one Delegate to the Conference in deference to the wish of French Minister for Foreign Affairs, reported in your private telegram of yesterday. We suppose you will not want further assistance, as you are taking Messrs. Irwin, Vaughan, and St. Aubyn. You may support French Ambassador in recommendation to Spanish Government to send only one Delegate.

No. 61*.

British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 5.)

51, *Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., December* 4, 1905.

My Lord Marquess,

I HAVE the honour, on behalf of the Committee of this Society, to inclose an extract from the Tangier newspaper "Al Moghreb Al Aksa,"* of the 28th October last, which appeared under the heading "Slaves sold in Tangier," and to request your Lordship that the attention of His Majesty's Minister in Morocco may be called to the allegations of slave dealing therein made.

I am to remind your Lordship that more than twenty years ago the late Sir John Drummond Hay, Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco, used his great influence with the Sultan to take measures for the suppression of the Slave Trade in that country, and especially to put a stop to the public sale of slaves in the coast towns, and his efforts in this direction were continued by his successor, the late Sir William Kirby Green.

From information which the Anti-Slavery Society has from time to time received, it has had reason to believe that this prohibition has been observed in the seaport towns, although open slave markets have been well known to exist in the capitals in the interior. It would appear, however, from the extract inclosed, that things have recently gone backward in this respect, if in Tangier itself slave dealing can be carried on with little attempt at disguise, young girls and boys being taken about the city for sale.

I beg respectfully to ask your Lordship that inquiry may be made into the facts alleged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) TRAVERS BUXTON,
Secretary.

* Not printed.

terms. His Excellency further said that he had received equally satisfactory assurances from the new Minister of State, Señor Gullon, and that he now felt more at ease in respect to the attitude of Spain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 59.

Count Metternich to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 4.)

(Translation.)
My Lord, *London, December* 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour, in conformity with my instructions, to inform your Excellency that the Imperial Ambassador at Madrid, Actual Privy Councillor von Radowitz, and the Imperial Minister at Lisbon, Actual Privy Councillor von Tattenbach, have been appointed German Delegates at the Morocco Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. METTERNICH.

No. 60.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 4, 1905

THE Italian Government has appointed M. Malmusi, the Italian Minister here, to act as second Delegate at the Morocco Conference.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December* 4, 1905.

CONFERENCE on Moroccan affairs.

For reasons which I believe the French Ambassador in London will explain to your Lordship, the French Ambassador here, under instructions from his Government, is recommending the Spanish Government to appoint only one Delegate to the Conference.

May I support his recommendation, as he has expressed the wish that I should?

No. 62.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December* 5, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

The staff mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 94 of the 4th instant will amply suffice.

Many thanks for your Lordship's offer of further assistance.

No. 63.

Mr. Chilton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 7.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Copenhagen, December* 5, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Danish Government have refused the invitation to take part in the Morocco Conference, on the ground that Denmark has not sufficient interests in Morocco to render necessary the presence of a Danish Representative at the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. CHILTON.

No. 64.

Sir M. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 22. Consular.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, December* 4, 1905.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to report that I learn from Mr. Consul Churchill that the arms and ammunition that were on board the Belgian steamer "Ville de Bordeaux" are being shipped on board the steam-ship "Lista," their destination being probably Antwerp.

The agents of the "Lista" here are the firm of Mascarenhas and Co.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 220. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, December* 1, 1905.

I HAD the honour of a private audience of the King of Spain yesterday evening, and His Majesty spoke to me with regard to his recent visit to Berlin. His Majesty remarked that he had been struck with the feeling against England which he had observed in Court and official circles, but he gave me no instances of the mode or language in which this feeling was manifested. He said that he had met with a very friendly reception, and that the German Emperor had exerted himself as a courteous and hospitable host. At the same time His Majesty assured me that his opinion as to the necessity of Spain preserving a specially intimate understanding with Great Britain and France had been in no wise shaken, and he trusted that during the approaching Conference the three countries would act in harmony. He added that he was under the impression that Germany would not be so conciliatory in regard to Moorish affairs as she had led some to believe, and he did not think that the course of proceedings would run quite smoothly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 6.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Madrid, December* 3, 1905.

THE French Ambassador called upon me yesterday morning and said that he had received a telegram from M. Rouvier stating that, in view of the fact that the Sultan of Morocco did not wish the Conference to assemble until the 21st instant, on the eve of the Christmas holidays and of new year, he considered it desirable that the date of meeting should be postponed till the 6th January. M. Cambon said that

before speaking to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, M. Rouvier had desired that he should consult with me.

I told M. Cambon that I feared that it would be necessary to postpone the meeting till the early days of January. Most of the Moorish Delegates had only just started from Fez, and, as I understood the roads were in a bad condition, I doubted if they would reach Tangier till the 11th or 12th. They would be disinclined to go on at once to Algeciras, especially as their master would have told them that the meeting was not till the 21st. Moreover, most of the Powers, including Spain, had not yet named their Delegates. It seemed to me, therefore, that the date of the 15th must be abandoned. The 21st would be too close on Christmas, and it would be useless to meet and adjourn the next day. To my great regret, then, I feared the postponement till the early days of January was inevitable. It was most unfortunate that this should be so, as our Governments were incurring a considerable expense at the hotel after the 1st instant, and any delay was to be regretted.

I saw the Duke of Almodóvar yesterday evening, who informed me that M. Cambon had been with him and made the same communication as he had to me. The 6th January was a Catholic feast day, and he thought that the 5th would be preferable. I suggested to his Excellency that he should mention the matter to the German Chargé d'Affaires, and I urged that some date should be definitely fixed and all the Powers duly informed. I also repeated to him the same observations which I had made to M. Cambon. I inquired if the Spanish Government had as yet selected their Delegate, and his Excellency said that they hoped shortly to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 67.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 8.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Madrid, December* 4, 1905.

THE French Ambassador called on me yesterday, and informed me that he had received a telegram from M. Rouvier stating, in substance, that he considered it would be desirable if the representation of France, Spain, and Great Britain at the Conference at Algeciras were limited to one Delegate each. M. Rouvier said that he was instructing M. Cambon to speak to your Lordship on the subject.

The main objection, I gathered, of M. Rouvier to the three above-mentioned Powers following the example of others and nominating two Delegates, was that it would unduly increase the number of Delegates, and lead to the questions under discussion being submitted for treatment to Committees chosen from the body of the Conference. M. Rouvier evidently desired that all the questions should be examined by the Conference *in pleno*—firstly, I understand, in order to save time; and, secondly, to keep control over the scope and nature of the discussions. If three of the Powers principally interested had only one Delegate each, the question of the appointment of Committees could not, his Excellency considered, arise.

I venture to think there is some force in these observations of M. Rouvier, as I have little doubt that the first Representatives of some Powers, who have no direct knowledge of the Morocco question, would be glad to devolve the duty of discussing details to the second and more expert Representatives in Committee. I told M. Cambon that, in my personal opinion, the limitation of the number of Delegates was desirable, and that I thought, from past experience at Tangier in regard to Committees, it would be preferable to leave to the Conference the duty of discussing all measures. My impression had been that each Power would be represented by one Delegate, with, perhaps, some experts to assist and advise them, but that the Delegates alone should have the right to vote and discuss. Germany, the United States, Italy, and possibly one or two other Powers had, I believed, already named two Delegates each, and personally I regretted this. At the Madrid Conference of 1880 each Power had only one Delegate.

M. Cambon said he intended to speak to the Spanish Government on the subject and endeavour to induce them to fall in with M. Rouvier's views. His Excellency expressed a desire that I should support his recommendations, and I have telegraphed to ascertain your Lordship's wishes.

I told M. Cambon that there was one point to which I thought he might draw the attention of his Government. One or two of the Representatives here had given

me to understand that, so far as they were aware, their Governments had no cognizance of the programme with which the Conference would have to deal. I ventured to think that it would be well that all those who were to take part in the Conference should be acquainted with the scope and also the limitations of the programme, as otherwise we might have some surprises sprung upon us.

M. Cambon took note of my observations, and said he would communicate with M. Rouvier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON

No. 68.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 284.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 1, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the translation of a Circular addressed to me, and all the other foreign Representatives here, by Sid Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Commissioner, who is now at Fez, intimating that the Sultan has decided that the Conference on the reforms to be introduced into Morocco will be held at Algeciras, and the first meeting take place on the 21st December.

No allusion is made to the Spanish note dispatched from here on the 17th ultimo, intimating that the 15th December had been selected for the meeting, and the Moorish authorities here assert that that note was only received at Fez on the 26th, the day of the dispatch of the present Circular.

Another feature of this note is that the Maghzen, as in its original invitation of the 30th May, takes upon itself the selection of the foreign Delegates, as they designate the Ministers here as those to whom the invitation is extended.

I have confined myself to acknowledging the receipt of this note, stating that I have forwarded it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. Lowther.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Fez, 29 Ramadan*, 1323 (*November* 26, 1905).

WITH reference to our previous letter to your Excellency concerning the request of the Moorish Government that you should be present to discuss, in regard to the intention of the Moorish Government to introduce such reforms as may be possible in Morocco, and the sources whence the revenue to meet the expenditure is to be derived.

We inform you that our Lord (compliments) has decided that the desired meeting shall take place at Algeciras, in Spain, as it seemed advantageous that it should be held there, and as the Spanish Government consented thereto. And it would be inconvenient to the Moorish Government and difficult were the Conference to be opened before the 20th December proximo. Our Lord has therefore appointed the 21st December for its opening, and His Shereefian Majesty requests your Government that you should be present with the Moorish Delegates on the day of its opening at the above-mentioned place.

(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 69.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 285. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 2, 1905.

IN conversation last night with the German Minister, Dr. Rosen, his Excellency said he had no illusions whatever as to there existing any desire on the part of the

Sultan or any of his advisers for reform of any kind in this country. He was not sanguine of the Conference producing any real result, even should it sit for months or, perhaps, longer. He had seen, with much regret, the appointment of M. Révoil as French Delegate. From his personal experience of him he had found that M. Révoil was a diplomatist who went out of his way to create difficulties, and was possessed of a very great command of language, which he did not hesitate to give vent to. He had found in his negotiations with M. Révoil that when proposals had been discussed and disposed of, he would always return to the charge and repeat the proposition in different language, or in a manner that might at first sight appear to be new. Under these circumstances he feared that M. Révoil would offer a good deal of obstruction at the Conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Madrid, December* 7, 1905.

THE French Ambassador mentioned to me yesterday that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs had spoken to him in regard to the establishment in close proximity to Melilla of French storehouses through which an active trade was being prosecuted with the tribes in sympathy with the cause of the Pretender, and that this commerce was gravely affecting the interests of Melilla. The enterprise appears to have been initiated by a M. Delbrel, a Frenchman, who has for some time past been a supporter and counsellor of the Pretender. The Duke of Almodovar asked M. Cambon whether the French Government could not take some steps towards preventing this illegal traffic. M. Cambon explained to the Duke of Almodovar that he feared that it would be difficult for the French Government to intervene in any manner. M. Delbrel was a French citizen who had been expelled from Algeria, and was under the ban, while it was evidently impossible for the French authorities to take any action in regard to the Pretender, who apparently levies dues on the articles imported.

The Duke of Almodovar observed that probably the funds for the undertaking had been in the first place supplied by some French merchants or financiers in Oran over whom the French Government might possibly be able to exercise some influence. M. Cambon said that he would make inquiries, but even in that case it might be difficult to prevent French citizens from prosecuting a traffic which they undertook at their own risk and peril.

Strictly speaking, as M. Cambon remarked to me, the Sultan of Morocco was the party principally aggrieved, and this Sovereign was clearly not in a position to assert his authority in those regions. He had suggested to the Duke of Almodovar that perhaps the Melilla authorities might themselves take measures for frustrating the prosecution of a commerce which was detrimental to the commerical interests of Melilla, but His Excellency had replied that any forcible intervention was, at any rate at this moment, quite out of the question.

M. Cambon was under the impression that the slight stir caused in the Spanish press on the subject had induced the Duke of Almodovar to take some notice of the matter, and that probably he would hear no more of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir M. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 23. Consular.)
My Lord, *Lisbon, December* 7, 1905.

WITH reference to the last paragraph of my despatch No. 21, Consular, of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, according to to-day's "Seculo," the

cases of rifles seized in the steam-ship "St. Jacques" were sent from Belgium marked "mirrors," under which description it was intended to re-export them to Africa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 13, 1905.*

MOROCCO Conference.

I was informed to-day by Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs that he feared that, owing to the unexpected number of the Delegates and their staffs, it would be impossible to find accommodation at Algeciras for the Representatives; there were only forty rooms available, and requests had been received for seventy-one rooms. The only alternative seemed to him to be that Madrid should be the place of meeting. The difficulty seems serious, but I will see what can be done when I call on Minister for Foreign Affairs to-morrow.

(Confidential.)

I hear that on a report circulating that the Spanish Representative would be the former Minister for Foreign Affairs who accompanied the King to London, the German Chargé d'Affaires intimated to the Spanish Government that this would be considered an unfriendly act by his Government.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 14, 1905.*

MOROCCO Conference.

Referring to my telegram No. 99.

In company with the French Chargé d'Affaires, I called this morning on Minister for Foreign Affairs and Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs to discuss the accommodation of Conference at Algeciras, and from what the latter told us it appears to be obviously impossible to provide there for the large number of Representatives and their staffs. This being so, Madrid seems to be the only alternative, and this will be proposed to the foreign Representatives by the Minister for Foreign Affairs at his weekly reception to-morrow.

I pointed out that the time was short, and I suggested the advisability of communicating without delay this proposal for a change of venue to the Moorish authorities, and I urged the desirability of maintaining the date of meeting even if the place of meeting were changed. I trust that you will approve my having also intimated that I was sure you would have no objection to the selection of Madrid.

No. 74.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 163.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 14, 1905.*

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve your appointment as the Representative of His Majesty's Government at the Conference on the affairs of Morocco, which is shortly to be held at Algeciras.

In accordance with your recommendation, your staff will consist of Messrs. Vaughan and St. Aubyn, of His Majesty's Embassy at Madrid, and of Mr. Irwin, of His Majesty's Legation at Tangier.

Your Excellency is fully conversant with the various matters which will be discussed by the Conference. The programme drawn up by the French and German Governments has, as you are aware, been communicated to and accepted by His

Majesty's Government, and your intimate knowledge of Moorish affairs renders it unnecessary for me to give you any detailed instructions for your guidance.

Generally speaking, however, your Excellency will, in accordance with Articles II and IX of the Anglo-French Declaration of the 8th April, 1904, respecting Egypt and Morocco, cordially support the proposals which your French colleague may bring forward with a view to the improvement of the existing state of affairs, and you should encourage your Spanish colleague to adopt a similar attitude. You should at the same time take care that no measure or arrangement is sanctioned which might impair the rights and privileges secured to Great Britain in that Declaration, more especially in Articles II, IV, V, and VII.

Should any question of this nature appear to you to be likely to arise, you should refer home for instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

No. 75.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 15, 1905.*

YOUR telegram No. 100.

[Morocco Conference.]

Your proceedings approved.

No. 76.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 461.)
Sir, *Paris, December 15, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of the French Yellow Book just published, respecting the affairs of Morocco (1901–1905), as well as a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. O'Beirne illustrating certain points connected with the part played by German diplomacy in this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Memorandum on Yellow Book relative to Morocco (1901–1905).

French Relations with Morocco prior to Anglo-French Agreement.

THE correspondence dates from March 1901. Down to March 1904, the month preceding the signature of the Anglo-French Agreement, it relates chiefly to difficulties arising on the Morocco–Algiers frontier. The French Government had frequent cause to complain of aggressions by tribes on the Moorish side of the frontier. In July 1901, a Protocol was signed in Paris by M. Delcassé and the Moorish Envoy, providing for measures to be taken mutually by the two Governments for policing the border region. After the conclusion of this arrangement the aggressions of Moorish tribesmen continued as before. In 1902 and 1903 there were frequent cases of attacks on French convoys and detachments, aggressions against Algerian tribes and murders of French citizens. In August 1903, at the request of the Moorish authorities, French military instructors were furnished to the Moorish garrison at Oujda, in North-Eastern Morocco, near the Algerian frontier. At this time military operations were in progress against the Moorish Pretender, and the French Government gave valuable assistance to the Moorish Government by allowing the passage of arms and of Moorish troops through Algerian territory, and by furnishing artillery and gunners for use at Oujda.

P. 15.

Pp. 31, 61, 64 71, 72, &c.

M. Taillandier August 26. P. 104.

Pp. 101, 105

M. Delcassé to M. Taillandier, January 5, 1903. P. 53.

A question not connected with the frontier in which the French Government intervened was the negotiation of a loan of 7,500,000 fr. to the Moorish Government by a French Syndicate in 1903. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs used his influence with the French banks concerned in order to induce them to take up the loan.

French Policy in Morocco subsequent to Anglo-French Agreement.

P. 133. On the 19th May, 1904, shortly after the signature of the Anglo-French Agreement, the French Minister at Tangier, M. Taillandier, wrote to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs explaining that it was to the interest of France to preserve the integrity of Morocco and the Sultan's Sovereignty, and dwelling on the need of internal reforms.

P. 140. On the 16th June a French Syndicate concluded an Agreement for a fresh loan of 62,000,000 fr. to the Moorish Government, secured on the revenues of all the Moorish ports and intended to pay off all previous loans. Agents representing the creditors were installed in the different ports to superintend the collection of the customs duties, with powers of control over the Moorish officials.

M. Taillandier, July 29, 1904. P. 160. On the 29th July the Moorish Government accepted the offer made by the French Minister to lend French officers to organize the military forces at Tangier.

P. 177. On the 12th December M. Taillandier suggested to M. Delcassé the urgency of pressing upon the Moorish Government the necessity of—

1. Establishing order on the frontier.
2. Improving the administration of the seaports.
3. Establishing order in the towns and their neighbourhood, by the organization of a police force.
4. Creating a Moorish State Bank.

P. 178. On the 15th December M. Delcassé sent M. Taillandier instructions in contemplation of his approaching Mission to Fez. Among the measures to be recommended to the Moorish Government were the appointment of a certain number of French officers and men to take service under the Moorish Government in the different Moorish garrisons; the creation of a new Moorish police force, of which the nucleus was to be furnished by the Algerian native police, and which was to be officered by Frenchmen. M. Taillandier was to press for the institution of a State Bank (under the auspices apparently of the French Syndicates which participated in the most recent loan); the construction of a carriage road; and the establishment of a telegraph-line between Marnia and Oujda, as a preliminary to further works of the same kind.

Pp. 200, 201. M. Taillandier commenced negotiations at Fez in February, 1905. In despatches dated the 10th and 18th March he gives an account of interviews with the Sultan, at which he pressed for the adoption of the different reforms desired by France. He informed the Sultan that the contiguity of the French possessions placed France in an unique position towards Morocco, so much so that the "Powers particularly interested, after France," had recognized her exclusive right to inspire the necessary reforms.

M. Delcassé to M. Taillandier, May 3, 1905. P. 217. The Moorish Government having proposed in April last that certain stipulations made by them with regard to the French police reform should be guaranteed by the Powers, M. Taillandier was instructed by M. Delcassé to state that there could be no question of any Power acting as intermediary between the French and the Moorish Governments.

P. 208. On the 11th April M. Taillandier reported that the Sultan had agreed to the creation of bodies of troops reorganized by French methods at Tangier, Rabat, and another port. Meanwhile, the German Emperor had visited Tangier, and the arrival of the German Mission at Fez brought about a complete change in the attitude of the Makhzen.

M. Taillandier to M. Delcassé, May 27, 1905. P. 223. On the 27th May M. Taillandier received a letter from the Moorish Minister of Foreign Affairs intimating that all reforms would be adjourned until the meeting of an International Conference.

German Contentions with regard to French Policy in Morocco.

It will be noticed that the correspondence summarized above gives no ground for the German statement (*vide* M. Bihourd's despatch of the 25th June, 1905, p. 244) that France had proposed a Treaty to the Moorish Government which would have destroyed

the Sultan's independence. The French Minister at Tangier, so far as can be gathered from the correspondence, confined himself to impressing on the Moorish Government the special interest which France, as a neighbour, took in the establishment of order in Morocco, and strongly urging the necessary reforms. As regards the other German contention, that France intended to take the affairs of Morocco into her own hands (*vide* M. Rouvier's Circular despatch of the 8th June, 1905, p. 230), the grounds afforded for it by the correspondence are, substantially, that, by undertaking the reform of police and finances in Morocco, France would have a tendency to acquire paramount influence in that country. It was also suggested by the German Ambassador in Paris that the Moorish Pretender had received support from the French authorities in Algeria (*vide* M. Rouvier's despatch to M. Jonnart, 21st June, 1905, p. 239). This was entirely denied by M. Jonnart, and the correspondence shows that the French Government, on the contrary, gave assistance in various ways to the Moorish Government.

Early Attitude of Germany on the Morocco Question.

P. 18. The earliest reference to Germany in the correspondence occurs in a despatch from M. Delcassé of the 23rd June, 1901, reporting a conversation with the German Ambassador in Paris. Prince Radolin referred to newspaper suggestions of a French Protectorate, and M. Delcassé said that if by a Protectorate was meant a special position on the part of France, it was evident that such a position existed. Prince Radolin acquiesced.

There is no further record of communications with the German Government on the subject of Morocco until the 23rd March, 1904, a few days before the conclusion of the Anglo-French Agreement, when M. Delcassé had another conversation with the German Ambassador. Prince Radolin, having asked whether an Agreement was about to be signed between France and England, M. Delcassé replied that negotiations were in progress, and said that, as regarded Morocco, France wished to maintain the political and territorial *status quo*, but she had suffered serious detriment from the condition of disorder prevailing in Morocco, and in her own interest she must lend Morocco her aid towards the establishment of law and order. In any case the freedom of commerce would be rigorously respected.

M. Delcassé to M. Bihourd, March 27, 1904 P. 142.

M. Delcassé authorized the French Ambassador in Berlin to use similar language, but M. Bihourd reported on the 17th April, 1904, that for want of opportunity he had not yet done so.

M. Bihourd to M. Delcassé, April 17, 1904. P. 126. On the 12th April, Prince Bülow, speaking in the Reichstag on the subject of the Anglo-French Agreement, said that, as regarded Morocco, German interests were chiefly commercial, and the German Government had no ground for fearing that they could be disregarded by any Power.

P. 129. On the 18th April, M. Delcassé sent the French Ambassador at Berlin instructions as to the declarations he should make to the German Government on the subject of the Anglo-French Agreement.

P. 131. M. Bihourd telegraphed on the 27th April that he had seen Baron Richthofen, and had stated to him that he appreciated Prince Bülow's recognition in the Reichstag that the Agreement did not threaten German interests.

M. Bihourd to M. Delcassé, October 7, 1904. P. 165. On the 7th October, five months later, M. Bihourd, by instruction of M. Delcassé, communicated to the German Government the Franco-Spanish Declaration regarding Morocco on the 6th October, and stated in reply to a question asked by Baron Richthofen as to the effect of this arrangement on German commercial interests, that these were fully guaranteed by the Anglo-French Agreement.

Change in Germany's Attitude.

M. de Chérisey to M. Delcassé, February 11, 1905. P. 196. A complete change in Germany's attitude became apparent in the spring of 1905. The French Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier reported on the 11th February that the German Chargé d'Affaires had informed him that his Government had no knowledge of recent international arrangements regarding Morocco, and did not consider itself bound by them. M. Delcassé thereupon instructed the French Ambassador at Berlin to remind Prince Bülow of the different communications made to the German Government on the subject. M. Bihourd made this communication to M. de Mühlberg, the German Under-Secretary of State, on the 15th February. M. de Mühlberg practically endorsed the German Chargé d'Affaires' statement to the effect that the German Government did not consider itself bound by the Anglo-French Agreement.

M. Bihourd to M. Delcassé, February 15, 1905 P. 197.

P. 202. On the 22nd March M. Bihourd reported that he had heard nothing further from the German Government with regard to his conversation with M. de Mühlberg, and added that the Imperial Government was clearly unwilling to enter into any exchange of views with the French Government on the Morocco question.

M. Delcassé to M. Bihourd, April 14, 1905. P. 211. On the 14th April M. Delcassé had a conversation with Prince Radolin, in the course of which he reminded the Prince of the communications made to him and the German Government with regard to the Morocco arrangements, and expressed his perfect readiness to dispel the misunderstanding which he thought had arisen between the two Governments. Prince Radolin maintained the greatest reserve.

M. Bihourd to M. Delcassé, April 25, 1905. P. 214. On the 25th April M. Bihourd offered, by M. Delcassé's instructions, to furnish Prince Bülow with the text of M. Delcassé's conversation with Prince Radolin of the 23rd March. Prince Bülow declined, saying that he had already received a report of the conversation.

M. Rouvier (Circular despatch), June 8, 1905. P. 230. On the 8th June M. Rouvier (who had meanwhile succeeded M. Delcassé as Minister of Foreign Affairs) transmitted to the French Ambassador at Berlin the text of the first portion of a note left with him by the Secretary of the German Embassy in Paris, arguing in favour of a meeting of a Conference of the Powers. The second portion of this note, which was read by the Secretary of the German Embassy (a copy not being left), referred to the supposed intention of France to take into her hands the management of the internal and foreign affairs of Morocco. M. Rouvier denied that there was any such intention.

M. Rouvier to M. Bihourd, June 11, 1905. P. 232 On the 10th June M. Rouvier had a conversation with Prince Radolin, who pressed for a meeting of a Conference, and said, "If the Conference does not take place, then you have the *status quo*, and you must know that we are behind Morocco."

P. 234. On the 16th June a further note was presented by the German Ambassador with arguments in favour of a Conference. It stated that the reforms necessary in Morocco should be executed in pursuance of a mandate given by the Powers, and intimated that such mandate should be given to France as far as concerned the frontier regions, but that as regards the regions distant from the frontier, the reorganization of the army and police should be carried out by different Powers in the different districts. The Morocco State Bank should be founded jointly by the Powers.

P. 235. M. Rouvier, on the 21st June, handed a note to the German Ambassador expressing the objections of the French Government to the proposed Conference, and stating its preference for a direct accord with Germany.

M. Bülow to M. Rouvier, June 23, 1905. P. 240. On the 23rd June M. Bihourd had a conversation with Prince Bülow, at which the Chancellor used alarming language as to the results of French hesitation in accepting the proposal for a Conference. The Prince also stated that the Morocco question could not be a cause of war between the two countries; such a conflict could result only from a more general cause. On the other hand, he said that the German Government was ready to "reserve the future" for France, and he intimated that if France would agree to the Conference, the German Government would adopt an attitude satisfactory to her in the subsequent negotiations.

P. 242. On the 24th June a further note was handed by the German Ambassador to M. Rouvier pressing for the Conference.

M. Bihourd to M. Rouvier, June 25, 1905. P. 244. On the 25th June Prince Bülow, in a conversation with M. Bihourd, said that, in view of the declaration of the German Emperor, the independence of the Sultan must be proclaimed, and an organization of the necessary reforms must be attempted by the Powers; but if, as was very possible, the attempt failed, then France might assume the rôle to which she aspired. In the course of this conversation Prince Bülow referred to a supposed Treaty proposed by M. Taillandier to the Sultan, which, he said, would have the effect of destroying the independence of Morocco.

Assent of France to the Conference.

P. 250. Early in July France agreed to the principle of the International Conference. Letters were exchanged on the 8th July between M. Rouvier and Prince Radolin providing for the meeting of the Conference and laying down the following principles as its basis:—

1. Sovereign independence of the Sultan.
2. Integrity of his Empire.
3. Liberty of commerce.

4. Desirability of police and financial reforms, of which the introduction should be regulated "for a short time" by international agreement.
5. Recognition of the position in which France was placed as a contiguous Power, and of her special interest in the establishment of order.

M. Rouvier to M. Bihourd, July 9, 1905. P. 249. On the 9th July M. Rouvier informed M. Bihourd that Prince Radolin concurred in his proposed statement to the French Parliament that the Anglo-French Agreement was in no wise affected by the arrangement now come to between the French and German Governments. M. Rouvier added that he had more than once informed Prince Radolin that France would ask the Conference to give her a mandate for the execution of military reforms, and that Prince Radolin has raised no objection.

Policy pursued by Germany in Morocco.

Some indication respecting the policy pursued by Germany in Morocco may be gathered from the above correspondence. While the German note of the 16th June, suggesting organization of reforms in the different districts by different Powers, might seem to imply a desire on Germany's part to obtain a sphere of influence, Prince Bülow's conversations with the French Ambassador appear to show that the German Government did not attach great importance to the Morocco question itself. Prince Bülow intimated very clearly that, although the German Government was bound, in view of the Emperor's declarations, to insist upon a Conference, on the other hand, if the French Government once assented to a Conference, they would find the German Government ready to make very large concessions to their wishes. He made it plain that the Imperial Government was ready to "reserve the future" in Morocco for France, and he also stated that the Morocco question could not be a cause of war between the two countries, though he suggested that there was a more general cause which might lead to conflict (? the desire to isolate Germany). Unless these different assurances were entirely misleading, and intended merely to persuade France to go into a Conference, it would seem that the Chancellor at this time contemplated without any great concern the possibility of France eventually assuming a predominent position in Morocco.

Germany's Complaint that she was not duly informed of Anglo-French Agreement.

As regards Germany's complaint that she had not been notified of the Anglo-French Agreement, the correspondence shows that the omission was mainly one of form, and that M. Delcassé displayed the greatest readiness to communicate with the German Government, as soon as he realized that they considered themselves not to have been duly informed. It is important to note that M. Delcassé, after his conversation of the 23rd March, 1904, with Prince Radolin regarding the impending Anglo-French Agreement, authorized M. Bihourd to hold similar language to the German Government; and although M. Bihourd from lack of opportunity did not act on that authorization, he did have a conversation with Baron Richthofen on the 27th April, in which reference was made to the Agreement.

Negotiations subsequent to France's Assent to the Conference.

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Programme of the Conference.

P 253 On the 20th July, 1905, M. Rouvier handed a note to the German Ambassador, stating that in the opinion of the French Government the programme of the Conference should cover—

1. The organization of the police outside the frontier region, in which region it was governed by arrangements come to between France and Morocco.
2. Financial reform: By a later note of the 1st August M. Rouvier explained in some detail the views of the French Government as to the accomplishment of these and other reforms (including reform in the methods of allotting contracts for public works). P. 256

P. 283.

In a note of the 26th August the German Ambassador questioned the French claim to reorganize the police in the frontier region.

P. 307.

The definitive text of the programme was ultimately settled during Dr. Rosen's visit to Paris in September. At that time M. Rouvier made a statement to M. Rosen to the effect that, beyond the stipulations of a note (to be signed on behalf of the two Governments) embodying the terms of the programme, France was bound by no engagements whatever in going into the Conference. This declaration was afterwards handed to Dr. Rosen in writing. The note in question was signed on the 28th September, 1905.

M. Rouvier to M. Bihourd, September 25, 1905. Pp. 305, 306. P. 307.

German Contract for the Construction of a Pier at Tangier.

The French Government obtained information in July 1905 that in consequence of strong pressure used by Count Tattenbach the Moorish Government was about to grant a concession to a German firm for the construction of a pier, and for other works in the port of Tangier.

M. Taillandier, July 12, 1905. P. 253.

The French Government contended that Count Tattenbach's action was contrary to the spirit of the Agreement between the two countries of the 8th July, by which it was intended to refer all questions of rival national interests to the Conference; also that a French firm had prior rights to the concession. Earnest and repeated representations which were made by the French Government met with a very unsatisfactory reception from the German Government. The latter maintained that Count Tattenbach had not negotiated for any concessions to German firms, but that the firm in question had obtained certain promises from the Moorish Government prior to the Count's arrival in Fez. It is plain, however, from the correspondence that pressure was used by Count Tattenbach subsequently to the 8th July, in order to bring the matter to a final conclusion. The two Governments ultimately agreed to examine the rival claims of the German and French firms concerned. It was found that the German firm had received a letter, dated the 15th March, 1905, from the Moorish Government, which contained an implied promise to entrust them with the construction of the proposed pier. On the other hand the French firm could only show that they had been invited by the Moorish authorities to make surveys and submit plans for the proposed work.

M. Rouvier's note, July 20, 1905. P. 253. M. Rouvier to Prince Radolin, July 29, 1905. P. 254. M. Rouvier to Prince Radolin, July 31, 1905. P. 255, &c. Prince Radolin to M. Rouvier, August 21, 1905. P. 274. M. Bihourd to M. Rouvier, August 29, 1905. P. 288. M. Taillandier (already quoted), July 12, 1905. P. 253. M. de St. Aulaire to M. Rouvier, September 17, 1905. P. 304. M. de St. Aulaire, October 3, 1905. P. 310. M. Rouvier to M. Bihourd, November 24, 1905. P. 319.

M. Rouvier accordingly signified to the German Government that the French Government had no objection to the German firm commencing work, but that they made the fullest reserves with regard to the rights of the French Company against the Moorish Government.

Proposed German Loan to the Sultan.

In August 1905, it came to the knowledge of the French Government that the German Minister in Morocco was negotiating with a view to a fresh loan to be made by a German firm to the Sultan, certain Imperial domains near Tangier and elsewhere being pledged as security. The French Government made repeated protests against this transaction, using practically the same arguments as in the case of the concessions for works in the harbour of Tangier. They contended that it was contrary to the spirit of the Arrangement of the 8th July, and they pointed out that the French Syndicate which had made the last loan to the Moorish Government had obtained the promise of preferential rights in regard to any future loans. The German Government did not deny that Count Tattenbach had lent his support to the scheme, but they maintained that since the proposed loan did not involve any consideration in the nature of a concession to the German firm, the French Government could not raise any objection to it.

M. Taillandier to M. Rouvier, August 2, 1905. P. 261. M. Rouvier to M. Bihourd, August 7, 1905. P. 263. M. Bihourd to M. Rouvier, August 8, 1905. P. 264. Ditto, August 14, 1905. P. 268. M. Rouvier to M. Bihourd, August 17, 1905. P. 270. Ditto, August 21, 1905. P. 273.

The difficulty was eventually settled by the French banks interested in the previous loan being permitted to participate in the proposed transaction, the question of their preferential rights being reserved.

P. 307.

No reference has been made in the above summary to the case of the arrest of the Algerian French citizen named Bouzian El Miliani, which did not give rise to any controversy with the German Government.

(Signed) HUGH O'BEIRNE.

December 17, 1905.

P.S.—Reference has inadvertently been omitted to an allegation of the German press that M Taillandier, during his negotiations at Fez, led the Sultan to believe that he had received a mandate from the European Powers. M. Taillandier gave this report an emphatic denial. It will be remembered (see above) that he reported having informed the Sultan that the "Powers particularly interested after France," had recognized the exclusive right of France to inspire the necessary reforms. It is very likely that this statement was misinterpreted by the Sultan, and taken to imply a mandate from all the Powers.

M. Taillandier to M. Delcassé, April 9, 1905. P. 207. P. 201.

H. O'B.

No. 77.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 465. Confidential.)

Paris, December 15, 1905.

Sir,

I CALLED at the Foreign Office yesterday with the view of carrying out the instructions which I had received from you in Sir Eldon Gorst's letter of the 13th instant.

I took with me, in case the President of the Council might be absent, a Memorandum to be communicated to his Excellency, of which I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy.

M. Rouvier was at the Chamber, and I saw M. Louis, Directeur Politique at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. I explained to him the object of my visit, and I gave the Memorandum to him for the information of the Minister.

M. Louis told me that the information which had reached you from His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid had also been received at the Quai d'Orsay from the French Ambassador at the Spanish capital. There was evidently, M. Louis said, a misunderstanding somewhere, for on the 28th September M. Rouvier had instructed the French Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna to communicate to the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs the arrangement come to between the French and German Governments, and two days later (viz., the 30th September) the Chargé d'Affaires reported that he had made the communication, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had thanked him for it. A like communication had been made to all the Governments to be represented at the Morocco Conference, and by none of them had any exception been taken to the terms of the Franco-German Agreement.

It seemed probable that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador misunderstood something said to him by Count Goluchowski, or that he had not been kept fully informed by the Vienna Foreign Office of the Morocco negotiations.

In consequence of the information from Madrid, M. Rouvier telegraphed on the 13th instant to the French Embassy at Vienna directing that the Austro-Hungarian Government should be reminded of the communication made to them at the end of September, and be requested to give instructions to their Delegates at the Conference that the discussions should be confined within the limits of the programme settled between the French and German Governments.

M. Louis said that he had no doubt that your views, as stated in the Memorandum which I had given to him for communication to M. Rouvier, would be much appreciated and fully shared by his Excellency.

M. Louis added that the attitude of the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Madrid might possibly be accounted for by the following circumstances:—Just before the signature of the Franco-German Agreement of the 28th September, M. Rouvier had formally stated to Dr. Rosen that, outside of the Agreement to be signed, the French Government took no engagement whatever. The German Government had replied that, though bound by their Agreement, they reserved to themselves the faculty of supporting in the

Conference any proposals made by another Government which they might consider good. The language of the Austrian Representative at Madrid might possibly be taken as an indication that proposals outside the Franco-German programme might be put forward by some Government at the instigation of the German Government.

You will find in the Yellow Book just published, at p. 305, No. 348, the text of the Declaration made by M. Rouvier to Dr. Rosen, referred to by M. Louis. It was also made to the German Ambassador, and it is recorded in a despatch dated the 25th September from M. Rouvier to the French Ambassador at Berlin, with an instruction to him to hold the same language to Prince de Bülow.

The despatch says:—

"Je crois utile de vous rendre compte d'un entretien que j'ai eu aujourd'hui avec le Dr. Rosen.

"Après lui avoir demandé s'il avait la réponse de son Gouvernement au sujet de la rédaction proposée pour le projet de programme, je lui ai dit:

"'En dehors de la formule qui sera signée par les deux Gouvernements, j'entends n'avoir d'engagement sur aucun point.

"'Je ne puis que renouveler mon affirmation que j'ai, au même degré que le Gouvernement Impérial, le désir d'éviter tout désaccord flagrant entre nous à la Conférence et de concourir à y faire prévaloir les solutions qui ménagent le mieux les intérêts et les amours-propres de manière qu'il n'y ait ni vainqueur ni vaincu, suivant l'expression même du Prince de Radolin.

"'La garantie pour l'Allemagne réside dans ce fait que, les décisions de la Conférence devant être prises à l'unanimité, il suffirait de son opposition pour que le mandat général ne nous soit pas confié.

"'J'ai chargé le Représentant de la République à Berlin de porter ces explications à la connaissance du Prince de Bülow.'

"Après cet entretien, j'ai fait venir le Prince de Radolin, et je lui ai répété textuellement ce que j'avais dit au Dr. Rosen.

"Quand vous verrez le Prince de Bülow, je vous prie de lui tenir le même langage."

A despatch of the next day's date from M. Rouvier to the Ambassador at Berlin states that he had given to Dr. Rosen the declarations in writing, "afin d'éviter toute équivoque et de ne laisser subsister aucun doute sur mon intention de ne prendre par avance aucun engagement à l'égard de l'œuvre de la Conférence."

There is no record in the Yellow Book of the Counter-Declaration made by the German Government. I will endeavour to obtain the text of it at the Quai d'Orsay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Memorandum.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Autriche-Hongrie à Madrid, au cours d'une conversation avec l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, a déclaré que ni lui ni le Comte Goluchowski n'avait connaissance du programme élaboré pour la Conférence du Maroc, et a exprimé l'avis qu'il n'y aurait pas d'objection à ce que la discussion portât sur des sujets non compris dans ce programme, tels que des sujets d'intérêt général au Maroc. L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie aurait exprimé les mêmes opinions au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères Espagnol, ainsi qu'à l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Madrid.

Sir Edward Grey est, en conséquence, d'avis qu'il y aurait intérêt à ce que le programme de la Conférence fût communiqué à toutes les Puissances qui y prendront part, et que le Président de la Conférence, qui, comme on est en droit de le présumer, sera le Plénipotentiaire Espagnol, eût comme instruction d'écarter de la discussion toute question non comprise dans le programme arrêté entre les Gouvernements Français et Allemand.

Paris, le 14 Décembre, 1905.

No. 78.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 16, 1905.*

WITH reference to the telegram from His Majesty's Minister in Morocco of to-day's date.

It would be anticipating events to state that all the Powers had agreed to suggestion that Conference should be held at Madrid, as mentioned in the Spanish Minister's communication.

As there has not yet been time for the Governments to reply, there must have been some mistake either in the despatch or in the receipt of the instructions to the Spanish Minister at Tangier.

Telegrams were sent to their respective Governments yesterday by the foreign Representatives here, conveying the suggestion, and I know that this afternoon no replies had been received by the French or Italian Ambassadors or the Portuguese Minister, who are the only colleagues I have seen.

I have repeated the above to Mr. Lowther.

No. 79.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 16, 1905.*

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 15th instant.

To-day M. Llaberia, the Spanish Minister here, has sent a communication to the Court at Fez, through the Sultan's Commissioner now in Tangier, to the effect that the Spanish Government trusts that, all the other Powers having agreed to accept Madrid as the locality for the Conference, the Sultan will also approve of the change.

According to the Commissioner, a reply to the Spanish note may, provided the weather keeps fine, reach Tangier in ten days.

I have sent the above telegram to Madrid.

No. 80.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 16, 1905.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 101 from His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

I will see the Spanish Minister at once in order to ask him for an explanation with regard to the statement he made before several of my colleagues and myself.

I felt sure there must be a mistake.

No. 81.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 17, 1905.*

MOROCCO Conference.

My telegram No. 101 of the 16th instant.

I trust you will permit me to defer communicating your consent to the change of locality of Conference until an intimation of the views of France and Germany on the subject has been received.

I sent a private letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which I pointed out that some misunderstanding had apparently arisen in regard to the instructions to the Spanish Minister at Tangier, and the Duke of Almodovar replied that he had sent

a second telegram to Tangier, explaining that the replies from the Powers had not yet been received, as the text of his previous instructions might perhaps be open to misconstruction.

The mistake is unfortunate, as I fear that confusion and misunderstandings may be caused in consequence.

No. 82.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 120, Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, December 17, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No 101 of yesterday.

I have just been shown by the Spanish Minister most confidentially the text of the telegram received from his Government in which he is instructed to inform the Sultan that the meeting place of the Conference has been changed. It is clearly stated in it that the change had been accepted by all the Powers. In a later telegram it is mentioned that this statement was made so as to gain time in obtaining the Sultan's agreement.

Sid Torres now knows that the agreement of the Powers is not a fact, and will inform the Court of this to-day without doubt.

The second Moorish Delegate has stated as his personal opinion that the Sultan will refuse to agree to this change of venue.

I have sent the above to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.

No. 83.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 286.)

Tangier, December 4, 1905.

My Lord,

ONE of the conditions of the recent German loan to Morocco, or as that Government preferred to call it the temporary advance to Morocco, was that half the total of the 500,000*l.* should be furnished immediately, and that the remainder should be paid after a Joint Commission had established in a precise form the lands to be given as security, their value, &c. The first half of the total was duly paid in to the Moorish Government, but no steps whatever have been taken regarding the valuation of the lands proposed as security, and I am informed that, of the money the Moorish Government received, only a small proportion has been spent, and I have reason to believe that the Makhzen and the Sultan are still in possession of about 1,000,000 fr. of the French loan.

On the other hand, the sums owing by the Makhzen to banks, &c., here in Tangier are accumulating to a formidable extent, and now surpass the total of the half of the German loan and the remainder of the French loan which would amount to above 300,000*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 84.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 287. Confidential.)

Tangier, December 4, 1905.

My Lord,

I HAD to-day a long conversation with Dr. Rosen, the German Minister, on the general subject of German policy in Morocco, and also on the work that the Conference at Algeciras was likely to accomplish.

Dr. Rosen said that the entire German policy here was founded on the fact that, as long as the French contemplated a "guerre de revanche," Germany would not tolerate that Morocco should be made a recruiting field, for they must be prepared for the contingency that had occurred in 1870, namely, that the whole of the African army of the

French should be thrown against them in the field. France at present showed little disposition to take up arms, but circumstances might change, and the French public, with vacillating moods, might assume a very different attitude.

Dr. Rosen asked me whether it was a fact that the French Minister had actually signed an Agreement with the Sultan on the subject of the reorganization of the army. I pleaded ignorance, but it seemed to me clear that the information on this subject, which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 190, Confidential, of the 20th July, had probably also reached him. It seems, however, doubtful whether the document in the hands of the French Government on this subject is of much real value.

Proceeding, Dr. Rosen said that, with the intention before them of not allowing France to use Morocco as a recruiting ground, it was clear that the German Government would never agree that France should be given a mandate to police all the coast, and on this point no concession was possible. He could not quite see the difficulties of the establishment of an international police. He appreciated the objections to which it might give rise in the mind of the Sultan if a gendarmerie of different nationalities was to undertake the police of different coast towns, for such a scheme would carry with it the idea of eventual spheres of influence, but Dr. Rosen seemed to favour a plan by which the police should be organized and controlled by a central body bearing an international character. I asked his Exellency whether, as France had been recognized as privileged to police the Algerian frontier, this would carry with it the duty of suppressing the Pretender, to which he replied that if the Pretender caused disturbances on the frontier it would come within their duties. Having rejoined that, as the Pretender was constantly moving about, it would be difficult to say when he was or was not within the district to be policed by the French, Dr. Rosen seemed to think this was a matter for the Conference. I may here remark that Dr. Rosen has been credited with the view that the Conference would be called upon to grant to France the mandate to police the frontier, which point was presumably finally disposed of in Paris. The above view is very likely what gave rise to this statement.

Dr. Rosen added that he had every reason to believe that the French Government had been sending assistance to the Pretender, but they had no agents in the district where he had been fighting, and no reports had reached the German Government on which they could rely. He quite saw the immense difficulty of establishing an efficient gendarmerie, not so much in the towns where it would be workable, but to keep open the trade routes, for no Christian officer in detached block-houses on the road would be allowed to live, and to these block-houses must be assigned Moorish officers or non-commissioned officers who, having received instruction under foreign officers and receiving their pay regularly, might become efficient.

I remarked to his Excellency that I presumed that he and M. Révoil had probably come to some understanding on most of the questions touching Morocco. His Excellency said he could assure me that there was no secret arrangement, though on many points they had come to an understanding, and he had every reason to believe that this understanding would be faithfully adhered to at the Conference. Turning to the question of the suppression of contraband, the Minister said that this, like the question of gendarmerie, depended much upon the funds at the disposal of those who undertook this onerous duty. Having pointed out to him that the Legations were in a measure to blame for the general and barely-concealed manner in which this trade was carried on, he asked for an explanation, and I pointed out to him that in numerous cases the penalties which foreign officials were able to apply were trivial, and that as they saw Moorish officials conniving at this netarious practice it often occurred that they shut their eyes to offences of this nature. If a general regulation were to be drawn up and approved by all the Powers, inflicting very severe penalties, some improvement would no doubt be brought about. At present arms and ammunition were openly introduced through the custom-house, and when consignments of smuggled goods were detected they were openly put up to auction.

I presumed that the Conference would come to a decision that the custom-houses should be placed under foreign control, and this would to a great extent remedy this and other abuses. This innovation, and a reliable gendarmerie with perhaps three or four revenue cutters, if the funds permitted of it, would doubtless go far to put a stop to the present state of affairs. Dr. Rosen agreed to the suggestions I put forward, but seemed to have no other ideas, but he added that it was evident that his Government were desirous of checking this traffic, as they had recently dismissed a German Consular agent for his complicity in a smuggling affair and fined him 20*l.* As I had touched upon the question of the introduction of foreigners to control the custom-houses, I

asked Dr. Rosen how far this would be affected by the last French loan contract, which gave the French the right to introduce their employés into the customs for purposes of control, a right of which they had, however, not availed themselves, as at present they merely receive the sums required for the payment of the interest on the loan. The French Government might put forward a claim for monopoly of control in the customs with as much right as they did for the policing of the frontier. Dr. Rosen seemed disinclined to discuss this point.

With regard to financial reform, it seemed to him that some concessions favourable to France might be made, though he did not indicate the direction of such concessions. It would eminently be most desirable that the Hassani money should be regulated, and he was in favour of the establishment of a bank somewhat on the lines of the Imperial Ottoman Bank or of the Imperial Bank of Persia, and one or two officials should be introduced from those countries to enable Morocco to benefit by their experience. With regard to the question of the raising of fresh revenues, Dr. Rosen said that the French Government seemed very disinclined to encourage this idea, and had in Paris insisted very much upon the wording, "étude d'un meilleur rendement et de la création de nouveaux revenus," which seemed to have left the impression on his mind that they would be averse to an increase of the customs duties and the establishment of anything of the nature of Government monopolies.

The other points in the programme as adopted in Paris seemed to the German Minister to present no subject for argument, as indeed he was convinced that no serious difficulties would arise at the Conference, and while not being sanguine that reforms of a very radical kind would be likely to be the outcome of its deliberations, he yet hoped that something might be done to put an end to the present intolerable condition of affairs when the lives of all respectable members of the Christian community were in daily danger at the hands of the unruly population round the gates of Tangier.

Dr. Rosen said that there never was any question of his being present at the Conference. He had asked Prince Bülow not to consider his name, as his want of experience of this country would, he considered, be a serious drawback at the meetings of the Conference. M. de Radowitz and Count Tattenbach had been appointed, and although the latter had been somewhat severely handled in the French press, he was convinced that he had not been guilty of many of the faults attributed to him. At the same time he was of opinion that Count Tattenbach had not taken the Arrangement of the 8th July with sufficient seriousness, and he had in some degree overstepped that Arrangement.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Sir A. Nicolson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 85.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 7, 1905.

I HEAR from Fez that shortly before the departure from that city of Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's principal Delegate to the Conference at Algeciras, the Sultan's Master of the Ceremonies called all the Delegates and the Secretaries together in the name of His Shereefian Majesty. He narrated the French proposals of last spring and the answers of the Makhzen and the Notables, and enjoined the Delegates to keep all this in mind and to adhere closely to the answers already given. He pointed out that Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, from his great age, must be saved as much as possible of the work, which should be done by Hadj Mohammed Mukhri, and, indeed, it was mainly because His Shereefian Majesty thought the whole matter would have a better result if done under the auspices of Torres that he had been appointed. They were instructed to telegraph from day to day a full report, minutely detailed, of each day's proceedings, and these were to be forwarded immediately by special couriers to Fez. It appears that a code of a somewhat primitive kind has been drawn up for the purpose of sending these reports.

Sid Benasser Ghannam, who was originally appointed as one of the Delegates, is to remain at Tangier with the purpose of dealing with these reports.

From the nature of the above instructions it would not appear as if the Delegates were intended to find remedies for the existing condition of things, or as if the

Makhzen at heart think the state of affairs any other than mere "bad weather," which they must ride through as best they can, taking care that no foreigner has the charge of the vessel of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

P.S.—I have sent a copy of the above despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

G. L.

No. 86.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 290.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 7, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 262 of the 30th October, in regard to the demand for the punishment of the brigands who captured the marine officers, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of letters that have passed between myself and Sid-ben-Sliman, from which your Lordship will observe that the Moorish Government do not appear as yet to have taken any serious steps to carry out their promise in this respect.

Having been informed by Hadj Hamed Torres that his father had received secret instructions on this subject, I took the opportunity of inquiring as to the nature of these instructions, when that official, together with Sid Ghannam, called upon me this morning upon their return from Fez.

Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres stated that he had been consulted when at the Court as to the best means of effecting the punishment of the brothers Valiente, and had replied that the Government should instruct Duas, the Governor of Anghera, to arrest them; and should they be unable to do so, they should dismiss him and appoint in his stead another Angheran man named Deylan, who enjoys considerable influence in the tribe. Sid Torres added that the Makhzen were at present in correspondence with Duas on the subject.

In the course of the conversation, Sid Torres, as is his custom, expressed himself with great frankness as to the complete absence of all government in the country, and the utter inability of the Sultan and Makhzen to exert any authority. He said that the tribes set the Makhzen at defiance, and the latter had no means of compelling obedience. Thus, though the brothers Valiente had but a very small following—in fact, only one small village—the Governor of Anghera, influential as long as he was a rebel, but powerless now that he had become an official, is unable to effect their arrest. It would probably be the same were Deylan named Governor in his stead; by accepting office under the Makhzen he would lose all his influence in the tribe.

Reisouli maintains his authority in spite of the Makhzen rather than through them. He is nominally a Governor of the Makhzen, but in reality he acts independently, and absolutely ignores any instructions he may receive that are not to his taste. Sid Torres declared that the Government is powerless to restrain him and make him observe Treaty stipulations where foreigners were concerned.

Sid Torres finally observed that the country is at present comparatively quiet, and that the Makhzen are afraid to take any step that may give rise to fresh disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

Mr. Lowther to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, November* 13, 1905 (16 *Ramadan*, 1322).

YOUR Excellency will doubtless remember that on the 29th ultimo I informed your Excellency that His Majesty's Government demanded the punishment of the brigand known as Valiente and his brother, who effected the capture near Ceute of two British officers, who after some negotiation were released.

Your Excellency then informed me that you considered no punishment too severe for such criminals, but your Excellency was unable to state what measures would be most effective to bring about their capture. Your Excellency added that you were awaiting the report of Hadj Hamed Torres, who would, no doubt, make some suggestions on the subject; that these were hourly expected, and that if no reply could be given me while I was in Fez, it would certainly reach me on the road.

Two weeks have now passed, and I have waited in vain for the promised decision. Furthermore, on my arrival here I called upon Hadj Hamed Torres, and asked him whether he had submitted to the Court any suggestion as to the means to be employed to capture these brigands. Hadj Hamed Torres replied that he had had no instructions to do so, and he did not consider that it fell within his duties.

I must consequently urge the matter very seriously upon your Excellency's attention, and I trust that you will appreciate that His Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to the capture and punishment of these ruffians; and they also direct me to urge very strongly that proper steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Mr. Lowther to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier, November* 15, 1905 (17 *Ramadan*, 1323).

TWO days since I addressed your Excellency a letter in regard to the punishment of the brigand known as Valiente and his brother; I desire now to point out that these are not the only persons deserving of punishment in connection with the capture of the British officers. Your Excellency is aware that the officers were accompanied at the time of their capture by an escort composed of some twenty men under the command of a Kaïd. These soldiers made no attempt to defend the officers, but at once surrendered to the brigands, and handed over their arms; but not only were these men guilty of cowardice, the Kaïd and two of his men joined the brigand's party, and have never returned to Tetuan, thus giving some confirmation to the report that they were in league with the brigands. It is clear that these men deserve severe punishment, and that even the soldiers who subsequently returned to Tetuan should be punished.

The Governor of Tetuan is also greatly to blame in the matter. He must have been fully aware of the condition of the district, and the danger to which the officers were exposed on their journey. It was his duty, therefore, to see that they were provided with a sufficiently strong escort of reliable men to efficiently protect them. These officers were not mere travellers, but were there in the service of His Majesty's Government, and it was the duty of the Governor to see that no harm befell them. I have no doubt that the Sultan, when made aware of the facts of the case, will mark His Majesty's displeasure with the Governor for the negligence displayed by him in this respect.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 86.

Mr. Lowther to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier, November* 22, 1905 (25 *Ramadan*, 1323).

ON the 13th instant I addressed to your Excellency a note reminding you of your promise to inform me immediately of the steps the Makhzen should decide to take with a view to effect the capture of the brigands known as Valiente.

Since then I have been, to my great regret, informed by Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod that your Excellency, while assuring him that something would be done, had admitted that no steps had up till the 12th instant been taken.

Your Excellency appears, however, to have added that you were in correspondence with the Tangier authorities on the subject. I had occasion to see Hadj Hamed Torres to-day, and inquired of him whether he had furnished your Excellency with the required

information. To my very great surprise he informed me that he had had no instructions to report on the matter, nor had he done so.

It is difficult to explain this discrepancy between the two statements, but in any case I must again recall the matter most earnestly to your Excellency's attention, with an urgent request for communication to me of the decision arrived at by the Makhzen, so that I may convey the necessary information to my Government, which is anxiously expecting it.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 86.

Sid-ben-Sliman to Mr. Lowther.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Fez*, 25 *Ramadan*, 1323 (*November* 22, 1905).

WE have received your letter of the 13th November on the subject of the two British officers (captured) in Anghera, and what we informed you on the subject of the brigands, Valiente and his brother, and we understand that you are awaiting our answer in this matter; also we note that you spoke on the matter to Sid Hadj Hamed Torres. We took note of this, and brought it to the knowledge of His Shereefian Majesty. We have explained to you the attention given by the Sultan to this matter, and his firm intention in it. May your Excellency know that at the time we spoke together on the subject we deputed the Deputy Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to write to his Khalifa (Sid Hadj Hamed Torres) secretly to recommend the best method for arriving at the capture of the two brigands privately. Then at the time of your departure it appeared that Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres was shortly going also, and he decided to postpone the matter until he could arrange it in person, fearing lest any rumour of his intention should arise, and the object fail thereby, or the difficulty be increased, for the matter of chief importance is to take the steps for the capture of the two brigands, and to do this with the greatest secrecy, which is important for the bringing about of the desired end. In any case, Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres is about to start for Tangier, and immediately he arrives there he will begin to work in the matter as urgently as possible, and will occupy himself in it with the greatest determination and zeal, so as to arrive at the required object by the power of God, and you will know of his zeal and what he is doing in the matter if God will.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN

No. 87.

Mr. Lowther to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 291.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 8, 1905.

IN your despatch No. 114 of the 30th ultimo your Lordship calls for my observations on the subject of a letter addressed by the Secretary of the Native Races and Liquor Traffic United Committee to your Lordship regarding the importation of liquor into Morocco.

While fully sympathizing with the moral aims of the Committee, I venture to submit that the question is not one that can be dealt with by one or two Powers acting independently of the others.

Regulations for the control of the importation and sale of liquor would perhaps be agreed to by His Shereefian Majesty. But His Majesty has not at present the authority to cause his orders to be carried out, and in any case an agreement between all the Powers, some of whom—especially Spain and Germany—would see the interests of their subjects threatened, would be indispensable.

I would also observe that there is a large distillery business carried on in this country by Jews, subjects of His Shereefian Majesty, which is under no control, and never would be controlled if left, as it presumably must be, to the Moorish authorities.

Mr. Nott observes that the importation of arms and ammunition is not in the same category as the importation of liquor. This may be so, but the fact that Custom-house

officers will derive a benefit from passing prohibitive articles will always remain as long as the custom-houses are in the hands of Moors.

Although this question of the control of the liquor traffic does not come within the programme of the approaching Conference, I would venture to suggest that it is one that might very properly be submitted for the consideration of the Representatives of the Powers at Algeciras, as I fear that in Tangier it would be very difficult to arrive at an agreement between the Representatives of the Powers on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 88.

Sir H. Howard to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 199. Confidential.)
My Lord, *The Hague, December* 9, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 143 of the 23rd August last, I have the honour to subjoin the following translations of certain questions put by the Budget Committee of the States-General in their Preliminary Report in regard to the visit last summer of the three Netherland men-of-war to Tangier, and of the reply of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject, viz.:—

Questions put by the Budget Committee.

"General attention has been called to the fact that during the diplomatic difficulties between Germany and France over Morocco, three of our men-of-war, which were returning from India, entered one of the harbours of Morocco. It was asked whether this visit to Morocco, where we have no Representative of our own, but where our interests are intrusted to the Representative of Germany, was made by order of the Government. If so, it seemed very wanting in foresight that such an order should be given, as it must create the impression, and, in fact, it had created the impression abroad, that we were thereby placing ourselves on the side of Germany, and desired to uphold the policy of that country, a supposition which must have gained still further likelihood from the fact that the German Representative came and paid a visit to our vessels in uniform. If it was not by Government order, then it was considered that the Government should have taken measures in time to inform the Commander of the squadron that, in view of the existing conditions, it was inadvisable to visit any harbour in Morocco."

Reply of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"The visit of three of our men-of-war on their way home from India to Morocco was an ordinary presentation of flags, ordered by the Government, who considered it the more appropriate in view of the projected International Conference on Morocco, in which they would also take part.

"The fact that our interests in Morocco were intrusted to the German Representative could be entirely dissociated from this subject, and need not give rise to any such impression as that referred to in the Preliminary Report. That the said Representative came on board in uniform was a formality that is customary on such occasions."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

No. 89.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 469.)
Sir, *Paris, December* 16, 1905.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 465 of yesterday, on the subject of the Algeciras Conference, I have the honour to inform you that I sent a member of

His Majesty's Embassy this afternoon to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to endeavour to obtain from M. Louis, the Directeur Politique, the text of the Counter-Declaration made by the German Government in reply to M. Rouvier's Declaration to Dr. Rosen and the German Ambassador respecting the programme of the Conference.

M. Louis stated that there was no record of any written Counter-Declaration.

With regard to the language recently held by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Madrid, M. Louis sent me a message to the effect that the result of the inquiries made of Count Goluchowski by the French Ambassador showed that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador was speaking under some misapprehension. Count Goluchowski intended to telegraph to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at Madrid on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 90.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 470.)
Sir, *Paris, December* 17, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of the "Journal Officiel" containing a statement made yesterday by M. Rouvier in the Chamber of Deputies with reference to the Moroccan question.*

M. Rouvier's speech was almost entirely a review and commentary of French policy in Morocco, as shown in the Yellow Book just published, with an allusion to the general lines of the attitude which it would become France to adopt at the Conference about to assemble.

The whole tone of M. Rouvier's declarations was moderate and conciliatory. In respect to the past negotiations with Germany, his Excellency stated: "During the negotiations which resulted in the Agreements of the 8th July and 28th September, our rights, if not all recognized, have at least been preserved intact. These negotiations have been of a laborious character, but I am glad now to take note of their result, namely, that France and Germany have been enabled to successfully pass over two of the stages which lead to a removal of the difficulties which for a moment were on the point of embarrassing their relations, and I should have something with which to reproach myself were I, in the course of these explanations, to allow this fact to remain in the shade."

His peroration containing the following sentence: "Fidèle à une alliance restée hors de toute atteinte, à des amitiés précieuses, exemptes de toute arrière-pensée, désireuse d'entretenir avec tous des relations courtoises et même réciproquement confiantes," was received with loud applause by the Chamber, which in general showed its marked approval of M. Rouvier's declarations.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of the Ambassador)
(Signed) GEORGE GRAHAME.

No. 91.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

With reference to the last paragraph of your telegram No. 102 of the 17th instant, I concur in your proposal to defer communicating consent of His Majesty's Government to change of locality until after an expression of views on the part of France and Germany.

You should act generally in concert with your French colleague.

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* Not printed.

No. 92.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 19, 1905.*

YESTERDAY the Moorish Commissioner was verbally informed by M. Llaberia, the Spanish Minister, that invitations to accept Madrid as the meeting place for the Conference had been issued to all the Powers simultaneously. The Moorish Commissioner thereupon inquired which Powers had consented, but up to the present the Spanish Government have sent no reply.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 19, 1905.*

MOROCCO. Italy, Holland, and Sweden have accepted Madrid as locality of Conference. It is apparently the desire of Germany that Algeciras should be adhered to.

Spanish Government hope to arrange matters with French and German Ambassadors, who return here to-morrow.

No. 94.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 794. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 20, 1905.*

THE French Ambassador told me to-day that he had heard that, when the King of Spain was in Berlin, the German Emperor had suggested to him that, in the event of a conflict between France and Germany, Spain should, without crossing the frontier, assume an attitude benevolent to Germany by mobilizing part of her army towards the Pyrenæan frontier. I said that we had not heard anything of this. His Excellency said that he did not attach too much importance to a rumour of this kind, but that it would be very inconvenient if, in the proceedings of the Conference, Spain was not "bien sûrement avec nous." I replied that Germany was very active at the present time, and that, as regards public opinion in London and Berlin, there had been some friendly expressions on both sides. I thought it right that, whenever there was a friendly expression on the part of Germany, it should be replied to in sympathetic terms by us, otherwise some colour would be given to the suspicion that the Anglo-French "entente" was directed against Germany, which was not true; but as regards the Conference we had instructed Sir Arthur Nicolson to give to the French Delegates the fullest support, under the terms of Article IX of the Anglo-French Declaration, and I added, "Nous serons bien sûrement avec vous.'

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

No. 95.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Whitehead.

(No. 330.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 20, 1905.*

THE German Ambassador, who had not been able to attend the official reception last week paid me a visit yesterday. Our conversation was quite informal, as Count Metternich said tnat he had not had any communication from his Government on the subject of Morocco since the beginning of October, at which time he had been in Berlin, and was in that way acquainted with what the views of the Government were.

I said that I had been very glad to notice recently that there had been signs, both in Berlin and in London, that some sections, at any rate, of public opinion in both places

were exhibiting a more friendly feeling towards each other, and that, amongst other things, Count Metternich had himself made a very agreeable speech in London.

Count Metternich said that there had been a strong expression of feeling in Germany during the summer against England, due to the impression that, during this year, the English Government had been pressing the French further than the French themselves wished to go in opposition to German interests; that they had, in fact, been more French than the French themselves. This, he said, accounted for the feeling which had been displayed in Germany.

I said that there had also been a very unfavourable impression produced here owing to the feeling that Germany, who had taken but little interest in the Morocco Agreement when it was first published, had, as it appeared to us, unexpectedly caused a great deal of trouble with regard to it this year. It had seemed to people here that the object of this might be to disturb the Anglo-French *entente*, and, as the friendship with France was very agreeable to people in England, they naturally resented anything which appeared to them to be an attempt to disturb it.

Count Metternich said that we had a perfect right to dispose of our own interests in Morocco and assign them to others if we pleased, but that we had no right to give away the interests of any other country. Germany could not admit that the fact that France had a frontier gave her the privileged position which she claimed in Morocco. Germany was quite prepared to see reforms in Morocco, but they must be reforms on an international basis. He gave as instances of the sort of thing that he meant the Commission of the Public Debt at Constantinople and the proposals with regard to Macedonia.

I said that I assumed that these were the sort of things which might be discussed at the Conference, but that, as we had not initiated the Conference, we did not intend to initiate any discussions at the Conference. I could not, therefore, before the Conference took place, say what was likely to occur at it. I might say, generally, that we should go into the Conference with no desire or intention whatever of acting in any way hostile to Germany, but that we were bound to keep in a thorough manner the engagements which we had undertaken to France in the Anglo-French Declarations of April 1904, and until the Conference got to work we could not say how far those engagements would be found reconcilable with German policy. At present we knew nothing of what the proceedings at the Conference were likely to be except the programme which had been drawn up and agreed upon between Germany and France.

I understood Count Metternich to agree that there would be little object in discussing the affairs of Morocco further before the Conference opened.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

No. 96.

M. Irgens to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 21.)

M. le Ministre, *Légation de Norvège, Londres, le 20 Décembre, 1905.*

J'AI l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Norvégien regrette sincèrement que, dans les circonstances actuelles, il n'est pas à même d'envoyer des Délégués à la prochaine Conférence d'Algeciras sur des questions Marocaines.

Cependant, la Norvège ayant signé la Convention relative à l'exercice du droit de protection au Maroc, conclue à Madrid le 3 Juillet, 1880, le Gouvernement du Roi se flatte de l'espoir qu'il sera réservé aux pays qui ont signé la Convention de Madrid la faculté d'adhérer à la Convention ou aux Conventions qui seraient signées comme résultat de la Conférence d'Algeciras.

En portant, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je profite, &c.

(Signé) J. IRGENS.

No. 97.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 21, 1905.

IN the course of conversation yesterday the French Ambassador expressed considerable apprehension lest attempts might be made to detach Spain from France. Should you detect any signs of this you should take a favourable opportunity of impressing upon the Spanish Government that we intend to support France at the Conference, and that it would not be at all desirable for Spain to allow herself to be detached from us.

No. 98.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December* 22, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference. At the weekly reception of the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, I took the opportunity of speaking to his Excellency in the sense of your telegram No. 99.

The French Ambassador here had told me yesterday that he had already spoken seriously to his Excellency as to Spain not being led away, and he had at the same time begged me to impress on the Duke of Almodovar that His Majesty's Government would act in accord with France.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs said to me that Spain would act with us, but he was not so open and cordial as usual. I therefore took the opportunity of adding that the Agreements which Spain had entered into with France, and, if his Excellency would permit me to say so, her interests also, indicated to my mind the line she should follow.

During the whole of this year Germany has undoubtedly been making efforts with successive Spanish Governments to detach Spain from France and ourselves, and in some Government circles here these efforts have not been without their effect.

No. 99.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 292.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 12, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 290 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I have been informed by Sid Torres that Shereefian orders have been given to the Governor of Anjera, insisting on the capture of the brothers Valiente, dead or alive, adding that no excuse would be accepted for failing to carry out these orders. Sid Torres added that it was desired that these orders be kept secret, lest the Valientes should hear of them, and effect their escape to the mountains. His Excellency appeared to think that the Governor of Anjera would be able to carry out his instructions by stratagem.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 100.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 293.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 13, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 276 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further Memorandum I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, in regard to a reported advance of the French into Adrar and preparations of the Arabs to resist any further movement of the French northwards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Madden.

(Confidential.)

NEWS from Moorish sources, just received by the vessel recently chartered for Cape Juby by the Moorish authorities here to convey Uld Ma-el-Aineen and his following, with provisions for the Cape Juby Moorish garrison, are to the effect that the French, who were on the border of the Adrar, have, this Ramadan, advanced into Adrar itself. This advance has been carried out peaceably through the connivance of the elder son of the Sheikh Ma-el-Aineen, who is employed by the French in Adrar and is French-protected. I am told that he has reassured his father, the Sheikh, that the French will advance no further.

It has transpired that the Moorish authorities here shipped eight cases of cartridges and eight cases of rifles to Cape Juby, which, with all the guns they had, were, by order of the Sheikh Ma-el-Aineen, at once forwarded from Cape Juby to the Mahalla of Arabs, who had assembled, it is reported, somewhere to the north of the Adrar to guard their country from the French. The Arabs state that the French have already seized Arab territory in extent equivalent to a seven days' journey.

The Sheikh is also sending barley to the said Mahalla.

Kaïd Idau Bulali and the other Boundary Commissioners, who went down south some six months ago, are with the Sheikh Ma-el-Aineen at Wad S'mar.

(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

Mogador, November 28, 1905.

No. 101.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 294.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 15, 1905.

IN view of the forthcoming Conference, which will be called upon to deal with the subject, it may not be out of place to call attention to the present state of affairs in Tangier, which, judging from the testimony of reliable residents of good standing, is more lamentable than it has ever previously been known to be. Government is merely a name, and orders sent by the Sultan to Tangier, or issued by his Ministers or Commissioner, are ignored or treated with derision. We are living under the rule of the ex-brigand Raisuli, who states openly that the Government of the Sultan is nothing to him, that he knows no Treaties, nor recognizes any nationality beyond Moors, and that all the residents of this country will be judged by him according to his standard of what is right. Amongst many that I might mention two cases have recently occurred of infringement of Treaty rights by this man, in which British property has been trespassed upon and seized by him, and the orders sent by the Sultan's Commissioner to him to desist have been laughed at. It is true that during the greater part of the summer the Sultan's orders were to secure this man, who had actually been appointed Governor by himself, dead or alive, and the plan for his capture was laid when His Majesty, acting on influence that was brought to bear upon him, sent orders countermanding the previous ones and directing that Raisuli's orders were to be obeyed. His men now actually go into the town levying money under threats, and foreign houses have not been exempt from such treatment.

You are aware that, under directions from your predecessor, I demanded the punishment of the brothers Valiente, the heroes of the recent capture of the British officers near Tetuan. The reply I have so far met with has been that the undertaking would be a most difficult and dangerous one. Now it appears that the brigand Valiente has actually been living in Tangier for five days, and could easily have been secured by the Government officials, but they will abstain from doing anything towards this end for fear of reprisals on the part of the friends of Valiente, who would inevitably endeavour to effect the capture of another European with a view to obtaining his release.

The chaotic condition of the administration of Tangier is seriously affecting the commercial movement of the port. The organization of the Custom-house is such that daily robberies occur for which the Administration are directly responsible. To give some idea of the hopeless condition of affairs I may mention that the heads of foreign

Missions here decided to make, through their doyen, a joint representation to the Sultan's Commissioner with a view to obtaining the dismissal of the officials responsible for this sad state of affairs. The Sultan's Commissioner, while regretting his inability to do anything to remedy it, stated that it was mainly due to the unfortunate increase of commerce in the country. He lamented that those days had passed when Morocco imported only a few bales of Manchester goods from England and a few bales of silk from Italy, and when these were easily dealt with. This is the man whom the Sultan has selected as his First Delegate to defend the interests of his country at the approaching Conference. Comment is needless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 102.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 296.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 16, 1905.

FROM a report I have received from a usually well-informed source, it would appear that the Government force at Oojdah, owing to the fact that no funds have been sent for some time past, is in considerable difficulties; the necessary supplies of flour and other provisions can only be obtained at exorbitant prices, as payment is made by drafts drawn on the Moorish Government, who have at present no means of meeting them. These drafts were, until recently, bought in by speculators at rates varying from 2½ per cent. to 5 per cent. discount; the rate has, however, now been raisec to 10 per cent, and I am informed that the bills drawn on the Government are remitted to the Comptoir d'Escompte for collecting.

On the other hand, it is reported that the Pretender has recently made a call on the Riff tribes for contributions, and it is said that a sum of 150,000 dollars resulted from this call.

It is, of course, impossible to verify the latter statement, but all reports agree that the Pretender's influence in the Riff continues supreme and unchecked.

Advices just received from Morocco City report considerable disturbances among the tribes in that neighbourhood, and that no Government taxes are being paid by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 103.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 297. Secret.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 17, 1905.

YESTERDAY morning the Spanish Minister, in the presence of the Portuguese Minister, the French Chargé d'Affaires, and myself, stated that he had received a telegram from his Government to the effect that, in view of the difficulties in accommodating the various Representatives for the Conference at Algeciras, it had been decided to hold it at Madrid, and instructing him to inform the Maghzen that, as all the Powers had agreed to the change, the Spanish Government expressed the hope that it would also be agreeable to the Sultan.

I expressed some surprise that the consent of the Powers had been obtained so promptly, but M. Llaveria maintained that there was no mistake in his telegram, and added that he had already made the necessary communication to the Sultan's Commissioner, and the note would be sent to Fez at once.

This morning, having in the meantime received Sir A. Nicolson's telegram to the effect that it would be anticipating events to state that the Pewers had agreed to the change, I went to see my Spanish colleague, whom I found in a somewhat agitated frame of mind. He then proceeded to show me the telegrams he had received on this subject. The first distinctly directed him to make the above-mentioned communication to the Moorish Government, and it was clearly stated that all the Governments had agreed to the change. A later telegram which he received this morning merely said that the statement had been made in order to avoid delay in obtaining the consent of

the Sultan to the change of venue, but there were no instructions as to making any further communication, explaining the true facts of the case to His Majesty.

M. Llaveria was at a loss to understand the extraordinary procedure of his Government in thus perverting the facts, which had now become known, and to his other colleagues he had said that he could not throw any light on the subject, as some telegrams had arrived in an undecypherable condition. To me, as an old friend, he wished, in the strictest confidence, to show the texts of the telegrams, to prove that he was in no way to blame, though it was quite possible that he would be made the scapegoat if trouble came out of it.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Madrid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 104.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 298.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 17, 1905.

RECENTLY some French traders who were in relation with the Pretender established some stores at a place called Mare Chica, a spot near the coast to the east of Melilla, in order to provide the Pretender with arms, ammunition, and stores for his use.

This naturally caused some prejudice to the port of Melilla, and was exaggerated into an intention on the part of France to make a port at that place. This called forth a protest from the Spanish Government. Although they cannot be forcibly prevented by the French Government from carrying on this trade, they have been informed that it is irregular, and that they cannot in any way look to the support of the French Government, and it is probable that the whole scheme will be abandoned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

No. 105.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 299.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 17, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 292 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding the punishment to be inflicted upon the brigand Valiente and his brother.

During a visit I received this morning from Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Moorish Commissioner here, and Hadj Mohammed Mekri, the Delegates to the forthcoming Conference, I took the opportunity to inquire of the former what measures he proposed to take in this matter. His Excellency repeated what he had previously said, namely, that he had received strict orders from the Court to neglect no steps likely to lead to the capture of both Valiente and his brother, and that similar orders had been sent to the Kaïd of Angera. He added that he had also written to the Kaïd of Angera, urging him to effect their capture as speedily as possible.

I told his Excellency that I thought it would be wise if the whole of the Valiente band could be placed under restraint, as they would most probably attempt to capture some European to hold as a hostage pending the release of the two brothers. To this his Excellency agreed, and remarked that he hoped they would be able to effect the capture of them all, and that no further incident of this nature would occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GERARD LOWTHER.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to Mr. Lowther.

(After Compliments.) *Showal* 2, 1323 (*December* 8, 1905).

I RECEIVED your letter concerning Valiente and his brother, and asking what are the intentions of the Makhzen regarding their punishment. I took note of and informed His Shereefian Majesty thereof. His Majesty has commanded me to reply that he is very concerned in this matter, and that what is necessary should be done in such a manner as shall lead to the desired results.

I have already sent you word, through His Majesty's Representative, Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, of the instructions given him to attend to this matter, and I trust that God will facilitate the attainment of what is desired in a manner that will please both sides.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

No. 106.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 229.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 14, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 226 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires, M. de Margerie, informed me yesterday that, from inquiries which had been made, it would appear that there was no cause for uneasiness on the part of the Spanish Government as to the establishment of French storehouses near Melilla. In fact, such storehouses did not exist, and all that had occurred, or was likely to occur, was possibly the clandestine landing of contraband on the coast in the vicinity of the above port. M. de Margerie added that a French citizen from Oran, a M. Nogaret, had received a concession, presumably from the Pretender, to erect storehouses, but that, having no means of his own, he was endeavouring to raise the necessary funds. His efforts in that direction had hithr to not been successful, and the last news received as to his movements was to the effect that he was at Hamburg endeavouring to sell his concession. M. Nogaret was, M. de Margerie added, owner of a small vessel which is reported to carry on trade with Morocco, and he may have landed goods occasionally at the locality in question.

As it is stated that the natives have established a market ("soko"), near the landing place, I imagine that some trade is being carried on; but it is sufficient to see who, in present circumstances, is to prevent it. The Sultan cannot, and the Spanish authorities at Melilla would hardly venture to do so, even if they had a legitimate right to intervene. It is possible when measures are adopted for suppressing contraband by sea some check may be placed on these illicit enterprises.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 107.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 230. Confidential.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 14, 1905.

M. DE VILLA-URRUTIA, formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me yesterday that Señor Moret had mentioned to him that he had received a visit from the German Chargé d'Affaires, who alluded to some reports which had appeared in the newspapers to the effect that the Spanish Government were contemplating appointing M. de Villa-Urrutia as Spanish Representative at the Algeciras Conference.

The Chargé d'Affaires added that he was authorized to intimate that, should such an appointment be made, it would not be regarded in a friendly light by his Government.

I am not acquainted with the reply which Señor Moret gave to this notification, but he had communicated the fact to M. de Villa-Urrutia as a reason for not being in a position to offer him the post.

M. de Villa-Urrutia would have been an admirable selection. He was Secretary to the Madrid Conference in 1880, has served for some time in Tangier, and was Chief of the Section in the Foreign Office which dealt with Moorish Affairs. Moreover, he is an excellent linguist.

The German Ambassador, during M. de Villa-Urrutia's short tenure of office as Minister for Foreign Affairs, was always strongly opposed to him, as the German Government considered that he was on too intimate terms with M. Delcassé. Nevertheless, it is to regretted that the Spanish Government are not allowed a free hand in the choice of their Representative.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 108.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 231.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 14, 1905.

THE Under-Secretary of State, whom I met yesterday at an afternoon party, mentioned to me that both the Duc de Almodovar and himself were much perplexed in regard to the question of sufficient accommodation at Algeciras. The demands from various Powers, and especially from Germany, for rooms had so far exceeded their expectations that the Spanish Government were in a dilemma. He added that the Duke of Almodovar was anxious to see me as well as the French Chargé d'Affaires on the subject.

This morning I proceeded to the Ministry of State, and, with the French Chargé d'Affaires, had an interview with the Duke of Almodovar and the Under-Secretary, M. de Ojeda. They supplied us with a list of the Delegates and of the staffs, which showed that fifty-five to sixty officials would be present at the Conference, and this number did not include telegraph officials and copyists. As there would be, excluding the Moorish Delegates, for whom a house had been taken, twenty Representatives, who would naturally require two rooms each, the whole of the available accommodation at the Hotel "Reina Cristina" would be absorbed by them, and the other hotel in the place could only supply ten more rooms. They asked how would it then be possible to lodge the thirty-five or forty gentlemen composing the staffs, without taking into consideration the necessity for providing "chancelleries" for some of the larger Powers.

I told them that I should be satisfied with four rooms for myself and my two secretaries, as my interpreter and "chancellerie" would find accommodation in the house of the British Vice-Consul, and that, if it would assist matters, I should be ready to transport myself and staff to Gibraltar, though I admitted such a step would be inconvenient, and would not materially alleviate the pressure.

We discussed the matter for some time, the Under-Secretary explaining that it was originally understood that each Power would be represented by only one Delegate, or twelve in all, and perhaps with one or two secretaries each. This number could have been handled, but the Germans alone numbered ten, and fifty-five or sixty people could, in fact, not be housed at Algeciras.

There appeared to be no way out of the difficulty but to select another locality, and Madrid was evidently the only place in Spain suitable for the Conference.

I pointed out that we had only three weeks before the assembly of the Conference, and it was most desirable that no delay should occur in acquainting the several Powers, and especially Morocco, with the proposed change of venue. I hoped no Powers would, in the circumstances, make any difficulty, and I thought I could answer for His Majesty's Government that they would be ready to acquiesce in any place selected by the Spanish Government.

The Duke of Almodovar said that he would, at his weekly reception to-morrow, inform the several Representatives of the difficulties in regard to Algeciras, and ask them to ascertain the views of their Governments as to Madrid being chosen as the place of meeting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 109.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 232. Confidential.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 14, 1905.

THE Duke of Almodovar asked me this morning whether I was assured that the discussions of the Conference would be limited to the programme drawn up by France and Germany. I replied that I considered that my Government had agreed to the Conference on the basis of the programme, and I had little doubt that my mandate would be strictly limited to the subjects mentioned in the programme. I asked his Excellency if he had any doubts on the subject, as the arrangement between France and Germany seemed to me sufficiently precise and positive.

The Duke of Almodovar said that the German Chargé d'Affaires had recently mentioned to him that probably the scope of the programme would be enlarged during the course of the Conference, and that other subjects would be submitted for discussion. It is true, his Excellency added, that the Chargé d'Affaires had said that he had not been instructed to give any intimation in the above sense, but that was his own personal opinion.

I told the Duke of Almodovar that German Representatives did not often speak on their own initiative, and I said that I should not be surprised if some Power other than Germany, who had signed no Agreement, might endeavour to widen the field of discussion. I hoped and believed that my instructions would limit me strictly to the subjects enumerated in the programme, as I deprecated, on very many grounds, an extension of the discussions which might lead us on to very difficult ground.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey—(Received December 20.)

(No. 234.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 17, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a private correspondence with the Minister of State in regard to the message which the Spanish Minister at Tangier had been commissioned to make to the Moorish Government with respect to the transference of the Conference from Algeciras to Madrid.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to Duke Almodovar.

(Private.)

My dear Duke, *Madrid, December* 16, 1905.

I HAVE just received a telegram from Tangier, informing me that the Spanish Minister has written to the Moorish Government stating that, as all the Powers have agreed that the Conference should be held at Madrid, it is hoped the Sultan will also consent.

Is there not some misunderstanding, as surely the Powers have not yet had time to reply to the suggestion that Madrid should be the meeting place?

Yours, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Duke of Almodovar to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Private.)

My dear Sir Arthur, *Madrid, December* 16, 1905.

ON receipt of your note, I have read again the telegram sent to our Minister at Tangier. Perhaps the text might be construed in the way you are told from the place, although it seems to me clear enough, and quite precise in its sense.

At any rate, I have thought it is best to send a new telegram, stating that our suggestion to meet in Madrid has not been answered to by the Powers.

Many thanks.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) ALMODOVAR DEL RIO.

No. 111.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 236. Confidential.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 19, 1905.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires paid me a visit to-day, and informed me that he had been instructed by M. Rouvier to acquaint the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the French Government were disposed to accept Madrid, in lieu of Algeciras, as the place where the Conference should meet, provided that the other Powers agreed. M. de Margerie was also to intimate that perhaps it would have been better if the Spanish Government had arranged with the French and German Governments as to a change of locality before addressing themselves to all the Powers and to the Moorish Government, as France and Germany had consigned in a written document their agreement that Algeciras was to be the locality selected for the Conference.

M. Rouvier had also informed M. de Margerie that the Moorish Commissioners had visited the French Legation at Tangier and had communicated the substance of the message which they had received from the Spanish Minister to the effect that all the Powers had agreed to Madrid being chosen as the site of the Conference. They added that they had transmitted this information to Fez, where they expected that difficulties would be raised. Both the French Government and the French Legation at Tangier are aware that the message of the Spanish Minister had been delivered under a misconception of the facts of the case.

M. Rouvier instructed M. de Margerie to consult with me before he saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I told M. de Margerie that, in my humble opinion, the Spanish Government were hardly to be blamed for having simultaneously informed all the Powers as to the suggested change of locality. Both France and Germany had inquired of them whether Algeciras would be convenient to Spain as the place of meeting, and on their replying in the affirmative had requested the Spanish Government to issue the invitations to the other Powers, and to arrange with the Sultan for a date on which the Conference should assemble. This duty the Spanish Government had undertaken, and had, moreover, put themselves to considerable trouble in making the necessary preparations for the reception of the members of the Conference at Algeciras. When they had received notice, but a few days ago, of the full number who would attend the Conference, they had found that the resources of Algeciras were inadequate, and had, it seemed to me quite naturally, so informed the Powers as well as the Moorish Government, though owing to an unfortunate error the intimation to the latter had been erroneously transmitted. Time was a great consideration, and as some of the Delegates were coming from a distance, it was essential to apprise the Powers without delay of the difficulties in regard to Algeciras, and of a suggestion that Madrid should be selected in preference. He would, I presume, carry out his instructions, though I should inform him that, from what I had gathered from the Duke of Almodovar and the Under-Secretary, both of whom I had met at a ball last night, he would find them disposed, in view of the disinclination of Germany to abandon Algeciras, to accept that place, and leave the Representatives to make what shift they could with the available accommodation, which they admitted was quite inadequate, and which would leave a considerable portion of the Conference quite unprovided for.

M. de Margerie, whom I saw subsequently, told me that the Duke of Almodovar had replied to him practically in the above sense, and though his Excellency had frankly admitted that he knew it would be impossible to lodge many of the members, still Spain had done her best, and the Powers must arrange among themselves.

This attitude of the Spanish Government is a little unreasonable, but as the French and German Ambassadors are expected here to-morrow it would be well to await their arrival.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 112.

Mr. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 25, 1905.*

MOROCCO Conference. My telegram No. 118 of the 16th instant.

The Sultan's reply has been received; it states that he is unable to give his Delegates instructions to proceed to Madrid. If the Conference cannot be held at Algeciras, His Majesty suggests Tangier, but he wishes the former place to be adhered to.

I have sent the above to His Majesty's Representative at Madrid.

No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 238.)
Sir, *Madrid, December 22, 1905.*

AT the weekly reception of the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, in the course of conversation regarding the Conference, I told the Duke of Almodovar that there was one matter which I desired to mention to him, and that was that we intended to give our full support to France throughout the meetings. I added that we thought it very desirable that Spain should also act in accord with us, and I wished to inform his Excellency that I was not speaking without authority.

His Excellency said that of course Spain would desire to act with us, but as his affirmations had not the sincere and confident ring I had expected, I remarked that the Agreements which Spain had made with France constituted a moral obligation, and, if I might be permitted to say so, her interests, to my mind, indicated sufficiently clearly the line she should follow.

His Excellency agreed with my remarks, and I did not think it advisable to press the point further.

The French Ambassador paid me a visit yesterday afternoon, and said that the Duke of Almodovar had called on him on the previous evening. M. Cambon informed me that he had taken the opportunity of impressing on the Duke of Almodovar the necessity of Spain acting up to the spirit and letter of the Agreements which she had concluded with France, and he did not disguise from his Excellency that he had of late noticed a change of attitude in certain Government circles, who now kept their eyes fixed on Berlin, apparently ready to accomplish any behest which emanated from that quarter. M. Cambon said that he had dwelt on the continued pressure which had been steadily exercised on successive Spanish Governments to abandon their understanding with France and Great Britain, and although he did not believe that this pressure had shaken his Excellency or the Prime Minister, still it had undoubtedly produced its effect on some Government officials, as well as in the press and political circles. M. Cambon appears to have pointed out at some length to the Duke of Almodovar how imprudent it would be for Spain to abandon the understanding she maintained with Great Britain and France, and to have advised him to act loyally in the spirit of the Agreements which former Spanish Governments had concluded.

M. Cambon said that he had related the above to me, as he was anxious that I should speak myself to the Duke of Almodovar, and make it clear to his Excellency that the understanding between France and Great Britain still existed in its entirety, and would be strictly observed. He had noticed, he said, some doubts in the minds of the Spanish Government as to the solidity and durability of this understanding, and he trusted that I would assist in dispelling such doubts.

I told his Excellency that I should have no hesitation in doing so at a suitable opportunity; and subsequent to our interview I received your instructions, on which I acted this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 114.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 26.)

(No 239.)
Sir, *Madrid, December 22, 1905.*

THE German Ambassador called on me yesterday, and said that he had travelled from Paris with his French colleague, and was pleased to find that he was animated with the same desire as himself that the proceedings of the Conference should run smoothly and lead to some good results. There was a desire at Berlin that the Conference should meet as soon as possible, and every wish that the questions which were to be discussed should be treated in a friendly and conciliatory spirit. I replied that I was certain that this was also the wish of my Government, and I trusted that the work of the Conference would be rapidly and easily accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 115.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 26, 1905.*

MOROCCAN affairs. Conference at Algeciras.

Conference will, I expect, take place at Algeciras, owing to Sultan's refusal to accept Madrid, though the difficulty of providing accommodation remains. It will meet probably about the middle of January.

I find I can secure house of British Vice-Consul at a daily rent of 10*l*. The Consul would have to move his family elsewhere, which accounts for the high rent asked, which, however, does not exceed what daily hotel expenses of myself, staff, and servants would amount to. Another 15*l*. weekly should cover all additional household expenses.

If no rooms at the hotel are required, owing to the house being taken, it would be possible to withdraw from our guarantee to hotel at the end of this month, and the saving of the guarantee for the fifteen days of January would be 200*l*.

My taking the house would somewhat relieve crush in the hotel, and would be a great boon to me. I should be grateful of an early reply as to whether I may do so.

No. 116.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 26, 1905.*

FOLLOWING is secret:—

The French Ambassador was told by the Spanish Prime Minister three days ago that during the King of Spain's visit to Berlin a proposal was made to His Majesty by the German Emperor that a secret Agreement should be revived, which had been concluded between Germany and the late King of Spain, and which provided that, in the event of hostilities with France, Spain should furnish Germany with military assistance.

King Alfonso replied that in any case he could not come to any such agreement without consulting his Ministers, as he was a Constitutional Sovereign, and that, moreover, the international situation had changed since his father's days. The question does not appear to have been pursued further.

No. 117.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 482. Confidential.)

Paris, December 22, 1905.

Sir,

I WENT to the Foreign Office to-day in order to carry out the instructions which you gave me on the 18th and 21st instant.

I told the President of the Council that, as he had probably heard from the French Ambassador in London, the change of Ministry in England would not cause any change in the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards France. You had authorized me to say that they would loyally act up to the engagements taken by their predecessors, and they would give to France their unreserved support in the Conference on Morocco within the four corners of the Anglo-French Agreement and the programme arranged between the French and German Governments; but, in order to enable them to do so effectively, and to put them in a position to act in concert with France, it would be desirable that His Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with the views of the French Government on the matters to be discussed, and as to the concessions, if any, which might be made for the satisfaction of Germany. The German Ambassador in London had made it a matter of reproach to His Majesty's Government that they had in the first instance rejected the suggestion of a Conference, whereas the French Government had accepted it; that England had in fact been more French than the French Government, and His Majesty's Government desired to avoid being liable to such an accusation at the Conference.

His Majesty's Government wished to know what instructions M. Rouvier intended to give to the French Delegate, so that analogous directions might be given to the British Delegate so far as they could be consistently with the terms of the Anglo-French Agreement; and it would be necessary that the French and British Delegates should communicate freely and confidentially with each other on all matters in discussion.

I further said to M. Rouvier that he had no doubt noticed the exchange of complimentary messages between groups of persons in Germany and in England. These messages had not been in any way inspired by His Majesty's Government. You desired to be on good terms with Germany, but an improvement in the relations between the British and German Governments would depend on the attitude of the German Government in regard to Morocco and other questions in which England was interested.

M. Rouvier expressed his satisfaction at the assurances which I had given to him in your name. He had not, he said, attached much political importance to the exchange of civilities to which I had referred. He promised that, as soon as he had settled the instructions to the French Delegate, he would communicate them to His Majesty's Government. They would, he said, be based on the programme arranged with Germany and the statement which he had made in the Chamber on the 16th instant (see Embassy despatch No. 470 of the 17th December). Great latitude should, however, he thought, be given to the Delegates of England and France, so that they might be free to discuss together and deal in concert with any proposals put forward by any of the other Delegates.

I asked his Excellency whether he had any information as to what Germany might propose. He replied that he had no idea. He thought that satisfaction might be found for Germany in economic matters, such, for instance, as a prolongation of the term of thirty years in regard to equality of customs duties, taxation, and railway charges, which was agreed on between France and England by the Declaration of the 8th April, 1904.

I told his Excellency that I had heard in London, but not from an official source, that Germany might propose that the police force should be organized on the model of the Macedonian gendarmerie, leaving the portion of such force on the Algerian frontier to be officered solely by French officers.

M. Rouvier replied that if it were proposed to divide Morocco into "secteurs," as had been done with Macedonia, France would most certainly reject such a suggestion. If the attitude of Germany in the Conference prevented any settlement of the question of Morocco, the *status quo* would continue, a condition of things which could not be satisfactory to any of those having interests in Morocco, and would, for want of funds for the institution of reforms, become worse and worse.

I then mentioned to M. Rouvier that, the French Ambassador having expressed

to you some apprehension that attempts were being made by Germany to detach Spain from France, you had instructed His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid that, if he noticed any tendency on the part of the Spanish Government to allow themselves to be so detached, he was to impress on them that His Majesty's Government intended to support France at the Conference and that it would be contrary to the interests of Spain to allow herself to be separated from France and England; that Sir A. Nicolson had spoken in that sense to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had replied that he would act in concert with France and England. The attitude of the Spanish Minister not being, however, as frank and cordial as usual, His Majesty's Ambassador had pressed the view that the Agreements with France and also the interests of Spain plainly indicated to her the line she should take.

M. Rouvier had received this information from the French Ambassador at Madrid, and he observed that there was no doubt that the present Spanish Government were not so cordial in their manner towards France as their predecessors, and that it would require the concerted persuasion of the British and French Ambassadors to keep them up to the spirit of their engagements. If, however, Señor Montero Rios were appointed Spanish Delegate, he might probably be relied on to act with the British and French Representatives, inasmuch as it was he who signed on behalf of Spain the Franco-Spanish Agreements. If Spain failed to support France she could not expect to obtain the benefits to be derived from the Franco-Spanish Agreements regarding Morocco.

I then asked the President of the Council whether he knew anything as to the line which would be taken by Italy.

His Excellency replied that he could not suppose that Italy would support any German pretensions in Morocco, as if she did so she would naturally forfeit the advantages accorded to her in regard to Tripoli by her Agreement with France.

His Excellency had, he said, received satisfactory assurances from the Austro-Hungarian Government, and he did not expect to meet with opposition to French interests from that quarter nor from Belgium.

As to Holland, M. Rouvier had no very precise information. He rather expected that she would be found to act with Germany, but the attitude of a small State would, comparatively speaking, not be of much consequence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 118.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 107.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 27, 1905.*

MOROCCO. The foreign Representatives were informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning that there was no alternative but to fall back on Algeciras, owing to the refusal of the Sultan to agree to Madrid.

The marriage of the King's sister is on the 12th January, and it would appear discourteous for the foreign Representatives not to be present on the occasion. It is therefore proposed that the Conference should open on the 16th January.

This date will, I presume, meet with no objection on the part of His Majesty's Government.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 27.)

(No. 108.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December 27, 1905.*

MOROCCAN affairs. Algeciras Conference.

I learn on inquiry at the French Embassy that they have taken a house, but also require six rooms at hotel. They have consequently not withdrawn from guarantee.

Representatives have been invited by Spanish Government to meet to-morrow for the final arrangement of the accommodation, which is still inadequate. I shall give up mine, and suggest our withdrawal from guarantee without waiting for Treasury

sanction, which cannot reach me in time. The rent of house and hotel expenses are practically equivalent, and I will take on myself the extra expenditure of household expenses if the Treasury do not see their way to sanctioning it, as a decision must be taken immediately.

No. 120.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1905.

MOROCCO Conference.

As suggested in your telegram No. 105 of yesterday's date, you should at once withdraw from the guarantee given to the hotel. The precedent and conditions of the French withdrawal ought to be followed.

We will apply to the Treasury for sanction to hire house belonging to Vice-Consul.

No. 121.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 813.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1905.

THE French Minister told me to-day that he had seen M. Rouvier last Thursday. M. Rouvier had then no knowledge of what the Germans were likely to raise at the Morocco Conference. I said that we did not know either. M. Geoffray said that M. Rouvier was anxious as to what the attitude of Spain might be at the Conference. I said that M. Cambon had also spoken to me on this point, and that after my conversation with M. Cambon I had telegraphed to Sir Arthur Nicolson to say that if any reason for anxiety was apparent he was to tell the Spanish Government that it was our intention to support France, and that we hoped they would not separate from us; and I had heard that he had since spoken in this sense. In fact, I said, we had taken care both at Madrid and at Rome that our Ambassadors should be informed of our intention to give the fullest support to France at the Conference, under the terms of Article 9 of the Anglo-French Declarations. M. Geoffray asked if he might inform his Government that these instructions had been given. I said that he certainly might do so, and that I thought the French Ambassadors at Rome and Madrid were already aware of our intentions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

No. 122.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 171.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1905.

IN conversation with the Spanish Ambassador to-day I observed that, at the meetings of the Morocco Conference, our support would be given to France in accordance with the terms of Article IX of the Anglo-French Declarations, and I said that Spain also had an Agreement with France. He replied that it was the intention of Spain to support France and ourselves in the discussions at the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

No. 123.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 201.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1905.

THE Italian Ambassador asked me about the Morocco Conference to-day. I told him that it appeared probable that the place of meeting would now be Algeciras, and the time about the middle of January. I was unable to say what the course of events at the Conference was likely to be, but we should, of course, give our support to France under the terms of Article 9 of the Anglo-French Declarations.

The Italian Ambassador touched upon the relations between ourselves and Germany. I said that the Anglo-French *entente* had been in no way directed against Germany, and that neither the late Government nor the present Government had the least intention of using it to the disadvantage of Germany, and I knew the French Government had no intention of that kind either. The Ambassador said he knew this was so now, but that M. Delcassé might have had an idea at the back of his head. He hoped there would not be too much hurry in any improvement in the relations between England and Germany, which must be of slow growth, and he dwelt upon the number of years which it had taken to prepare public opinion in England and France for the good understanding which now exists between them. I said that more friendly manifestations of opinion between England and Germany could not, of course, make any progress unless things went smoothly at the Morocco Conference, and that at that Conference the four Powers most directly interested in the Mediterranean were Italy, France, Spain, and ourselves. I understood that we had no difficulties with each other with regard to our interests in the Mediterranean, and that we were all now good friends. I hoped we should all come out of the Conference as good friends as we went in. His Excellency said that Italy had not only friendship but also an alliance to be considered. I said I knew that this was so, and until the Conference had actually got to work it was, no doubt, difficult to be sure what conflict of interests would be apparent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December* 28, 1905.

MOROCCO.

With reference to my telegram No. 108 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that the German and French Ambassadors and myself this morning informed the Spanish Under-Secretary of State that, as the rooms were now distributed among the several delegations, our guarantees ceased from to-day.

Spain will be represented at the Conference by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 125.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 30, 1905.

PROVIDED that guarantee to hotel ceased on 28th instant and that rent does not begin until your arrival at Algeciras, Treasury sanction lease of Vice-Consul's house applied for in your telegram No. 105 of 26th instant, at rent of 10*l.* a-day.